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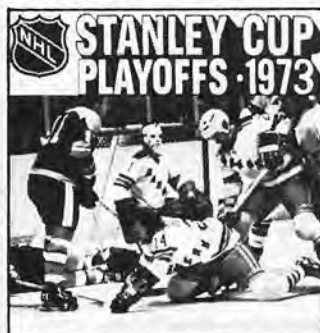
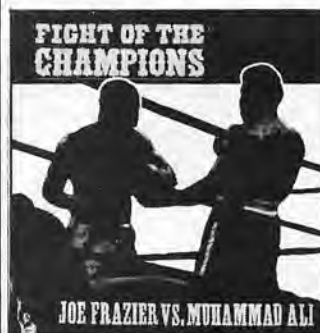
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Many receivers are superior to Fred Biletnikoff of the Dolphins "in going deep for the bomb," but few equal his ability in catching medium and short passes. Of course such players as running back O.J. Simpson of the Washington Redskins will be superior in all phases of the game and have no significant weaknesses.



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PRO FOOTBALL

GUIDE 1974

EDITED BY
LARRY FELSER
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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER: Mel Bookstein/VICE-PRESIDENT AND ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Bruce Karaban/ART DIRECTOR: Everette Short/ADVERTISING PRODUCTION MANAGER: Arlene Taylor/EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES: Lynne S. Kaplan, Linda Iris Levine/NATIONAL MAIL ORDER ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES: Karaban/Labiner Associates Inc., 25 West 43 St., New York, N.Y. 10036; telephone (212) 695-5525.

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PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS: Cover photograph by Tony Tomsic. Inside black and white photographs by Vernon J. Biever, John E. Biever, Malcolm W. Emmons, Ed Babst, Carl Skalak, Jr., Wide World Photos and courtesy of the World Football League and the National Football League teams.

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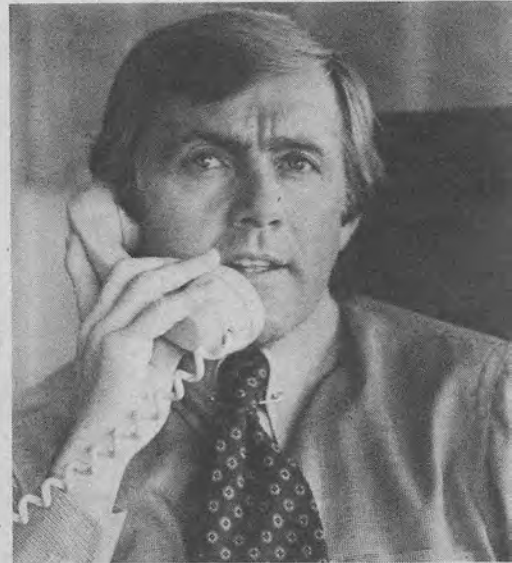
CITY STATE ZIP

THE WFL IS HERE TO STAY...



... if Gary Davidson's track record is to be believed

Charley Harraway moved from Washington in the NFL to Birmingham in the new league this year. He's shown in his Redskin days, right. WFL Commissioner Gary Davidson is at far right.



The young, blond attorney smiled broadly, the all-but-subtle glint of sunny Southern California etched in his tanned face.

"We are," he said, "planning to stick around for a while. We did not go to all this trouble just to lose some cash in the next year and fold up our tents. I believe the National Football League is going to be well aware of our presence for a long, long time."

Alter that statement, just by substituting "National Hockey League" or "National Basketball Association" and the speaker is still Gary Davidson, founder of the World Hockey League, the American Basketball Association and now, to the fanfare of gnashing teeth, the World Football League.

But let us not wax too flowery yet. True, the WFL has made more than a reasonable impact on the country. True,

the WFL has signed far more established NFL stars than anyone would have imagined possible. True, the WFL has secured a television contract (of sorts). True... true... true.

But the WFL has yet to play a full season, which means the men who own the 12 teams have not yet begun to hand out money at what will be a pace to startle even millionaires.

Still, the feeling persists that, with

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J-0

R P K R P K R P K

11- 2- 7-11 31-16-17-12 51-16-17-12

Height: 6-3 Weight: 237 Born: 12-25-46

Lawrence Richard "Hunk"

CSONKA

Offense: Fullback (5)

Defense: 5

Pass Receiving: C-3-1(3)

J-1

R P K R P K R P K

11-15- 7-11 31-17-17-13 51-17-17-13

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Davidson as the WFL commissioner, there is much cause for optimism.

It was with his guidance that no "raiding" was done on NFL rosters. Oh, sure, several score of NFL veterans have signed on with the WFL—but only once their existing contracts have expired. Those who will be seen playing this year—among them Charley Harraway, Bob Davis, John Elliott—are doing so only because they possessed the forethought not to sign new contracts and to play out their option clauses in 1973.

Furthermore, the WFL has not attempted to compete with the NFL on a head-to-head, or it is better to say on a Sunday-to-Sunday, basis. The WFL games will almost all be at night, and on Wednesday or Thursday nights.

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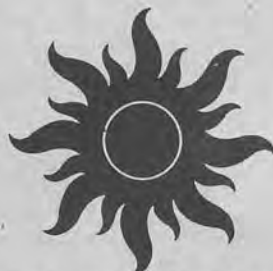
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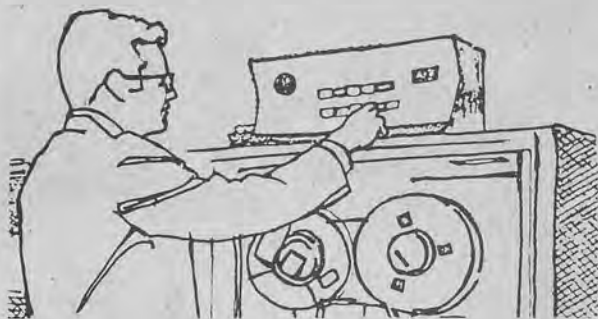


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College Preview Issue

FOOTBALL NEWS

Vol. 10, No. 1

September 11, 1975

Page 17-26

USC
Retains
No. 1



By DAVID L. CLARK
USC Retains No. 1
The USC football team, led by quarterback Steve Watson, has retained its position as the top-ranked team in the nation. Watson, a senior, has been a key player for the Trojans, leading them to a 10-0 record. The team's defense has been particularly strong, allowing only 14 points in 10 games. USC is currently in the Big Ten Conference, and they will be looking to make a strong showing in the upcoming season.

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Larry Csonka, 39, is one of three Miami stars who jumped to the WFL. He will join the Memphis Southmen for the 1975 campaign.

mid-week games. Just look at the popularity of Monday night football, in prime-time spots. No one ever thought it would prove to be as successful as it is."

So the WFL is here . . . to stay?

"I don't see why not," Davidson continues. "We are simply providing a service the NFL cannot, namely mid-week games and teams in areas that have tried to secure franchises for years."

Franchises, indeed, is another viable topic. There are a dozen of them in the WFL, spanning the country and then some, so to speak. There are teams in

Florida (two of them). There is a team in New York. Detroit, Chicago, Portland, Southern California, Houston. Birmingham and Memphis. Philadelphia. And Hawaii.

Birmingham may be a case to prove Davidson's point. That Alabama city is a hotbed of football interest. The University of Alabama and Auburn University draw equally fanatical support. There is a 70,000-seat stadium, Legion Field. If Birmingham makes it, the NFL will discover that it missed a bet.

Memphis, too, has long hungered for



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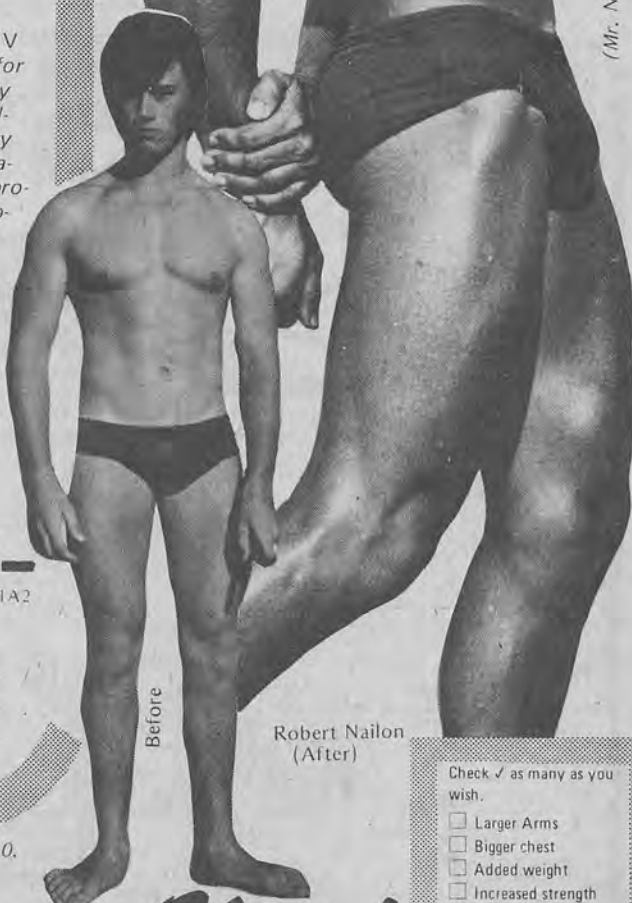
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an NFL team. But the NFL has long pondered without deciding. Now there are the Southmen, formerly the Toronto Northmen, and a 10-year lease on Memphis Memorial Field. And in 1975, lo and behold, there will be the likes of Larry Csonka, Paul Warfield and Jim Kiick doing their act in Memphis.

Through it all, Davidson has maintained a steady hand.

He claimed for himself the Philadelphia franchise at a time when no one wanted it, at a time when the WFL first began to decide on locations for its teams.

Some months later, he "sold" it to Jack Kelly, Jr., for \$750,000. That, of course,



THE HAWAIIANS



JACKSONVILLE SHARKS

represents a profit of exactly \$750,000. Given footwork like that, how can the WFL, under his leadership, do anything but succeed?

Of course, the quality of play in the WFL will not be near the NFL for a year, two or three. But with each new star who jumps... with each highly sought rookie who signs... the quality will improve and, along with it, credibility will increase.

Davidson is on the verge of chairing a successful professional league.

Who, then, is he? What has he done?

Davidson, as previously mentioned, is an attorney. His legal training has helped immeasurably in his endeavors in sports



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to date, which include the founding of both the ABA and the WHA. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from UCLA and also attended the UCLA law school, from which he received his Degree of Juris Doctorate in 1961.

In his work with the ABA, he took on the established NBA. The odds were incalculable, but such teams as the New York Nets, Kentucky Colonels, Utah Stars, Indiana Pacers, San Antonio Spurs all owe their existence to his efforts.

Abandoning the ABA after its successful emergence, he next went to work on the NHL. In founding the WHA, he polished the plan of attack he was to use

Calvin Hill will play for the WFL Hawaiians in '75.



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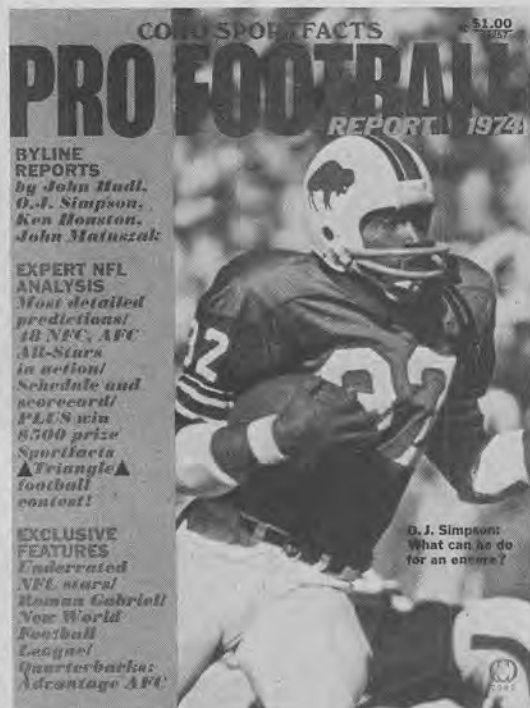
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on the NFL. His first spectacular accomplishment was the signing of NFL stars Bobby Hull and Gordie Howe, both of whom gave the WHA identity and credibility.

This method was to work so spectacularly in the spring of 1974 for the WFL, when Csonka, Warfield and Klück all renounced the Miami Dolphins to sign contracts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars with Toronto, which subsequently moved to Memphis.

"The basis for success is fan support," Davidson says, "and in most cases, fan support comes easier with established names in your league. When we signed those three, we knew more would follow.



CHICAGO FIRE

And when fans in Memphis or Hawaii or New York can show up for a game and see guys they've followed for years playing for their city, support comes quickly."

Since the Miami Three "defected," the list of superstars has grown quickly. Just a partial sampling must include Calvin Hill, Ken Stabler, Ted Kwalick, Jim Mitchell, Daryle Lamonic, John Gilliam, Craig Morton and Curley Culp. But the total of signed NFL-ers exceeds 50, most of whom are due for 1975 delivery.

"In another year or two, we'll be competitive with the NFL," Davidson feels. "We'll have strong teams in almost every city. We'll be getting more and more athletes because of our reputation. And then the rookies will begin to have a workable choice."

Money, then, is one of the prime requisites. And money is there in abundance. Of course, no single team can afford more than two or three of the superstar salaries that have had to be paid to sign the top names. But with two or three on each team, television ratings will improve, perhaps one of the three major networks will become more enamored of the WFL and, with more money coming in, so will more players.

Right now, however, many of the team owners are totally unconcerned with immediate financing. There are self-made



FLORIDA BLAZERS

millionaires in the charter group, men who might just as easily have purchased NFL teams—had any been made available.

There is a TV contract with TVS, a network of independent stations bound together loosely—but sometimes effectively. TVS is headed by Eddie Einhorn, who is a sports fan, a knowledgeable sales executive and, just maybe, a man gifted with ESP.

"It doesn't take much imagination to see that if the WFL makes it at all, it will be a very worthwhile television package," he says. "I had very little difficulty selling the games to more than 100 unaffiliated stations throughout the country."

NFL people are beginning to see the advantages owned by the WFL. "I think they'll make it," says Al Davis, managing general partner of the Oakland Raiders and, a decade ago, one of the barracudas of the AFL who kept cutting away at the



NEW YORK STARS

NFL until an amalgamation was the only solution. "They've done things pretty much the right way."

Several NFL players are optimistic, too, even those who have not chosen to avail themselves of the big contracts.

"I'm more hopeful than skeptical," says Minnesota's Alan Page.

"It's giving the players a great bargaining position," says John Hadl of the Rams. "A player's career is very short. He should be able to get as much as he can for his talents."

"They'd be crazy to pass up that kind of money," says veteran tackle Grady Alderman of the Vikings. "I'm just sorry I'm not 10 years younger."



DETROIT WHEELS

"They'll prove they're for real, and I hope they do," says the Rams' All-Pro defensive tackle, Merlin Olsen. "Suddenly there's an alternative. If there's no alternative, how do you bargain?"

There are plenty of players, for even

26 NFL teams can use only some 1,200 athletes, and in a country of 220-million persons, several thousand more, at the very least, are available and perhaps almost as talented as those who have made it in the NFL.

And at the top of the ladder is Gary Davidson, young and blond and tanned and eternally optimistic.

"We have come incredibly far in less than a year. I think this in itself shows we have much further to go in the years ahead."

His logic may be convenient and perhaps inaccurate. But with the track record he has shown thus far, no one can tell him he's wrong.



These are very special people.

Many heads turned when Charles Tripp, "Armless Wonder," and his friend Eli Bowen, "Legless Wonder," rode their bicycle built for two.



"Jacques" was the name Jean Libbera gave to the miniature twin that grew out of his body.



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Then there was Grace McDaniels, who was billed as the ugliest woman who ever lived (and her photo proves it). Believe it or not, Grace received several proposals of marriage before she accepted one from a handsome young man. They had a perfectly normal son, who grew up to be his mother's manager!

John Merrick, the grossly deformed "Elephant Man," was deserted by his heartless manager. Befriended by a kindly doctor, Merrick became quite famous and was frequently visited by Royalty.

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Julia Pastrana (1832-1860) was so ugliness what Marilyn Monroe was to loveliness.

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Den Herder anchors the left side of Miami's "No-Name Defense" from his defensive end position.

THE PRIDE FACTOR

It sounds corny, Miami's defensive line star admits, but the Dolphins are "a team built on pride." It helps give them "the winning edge"

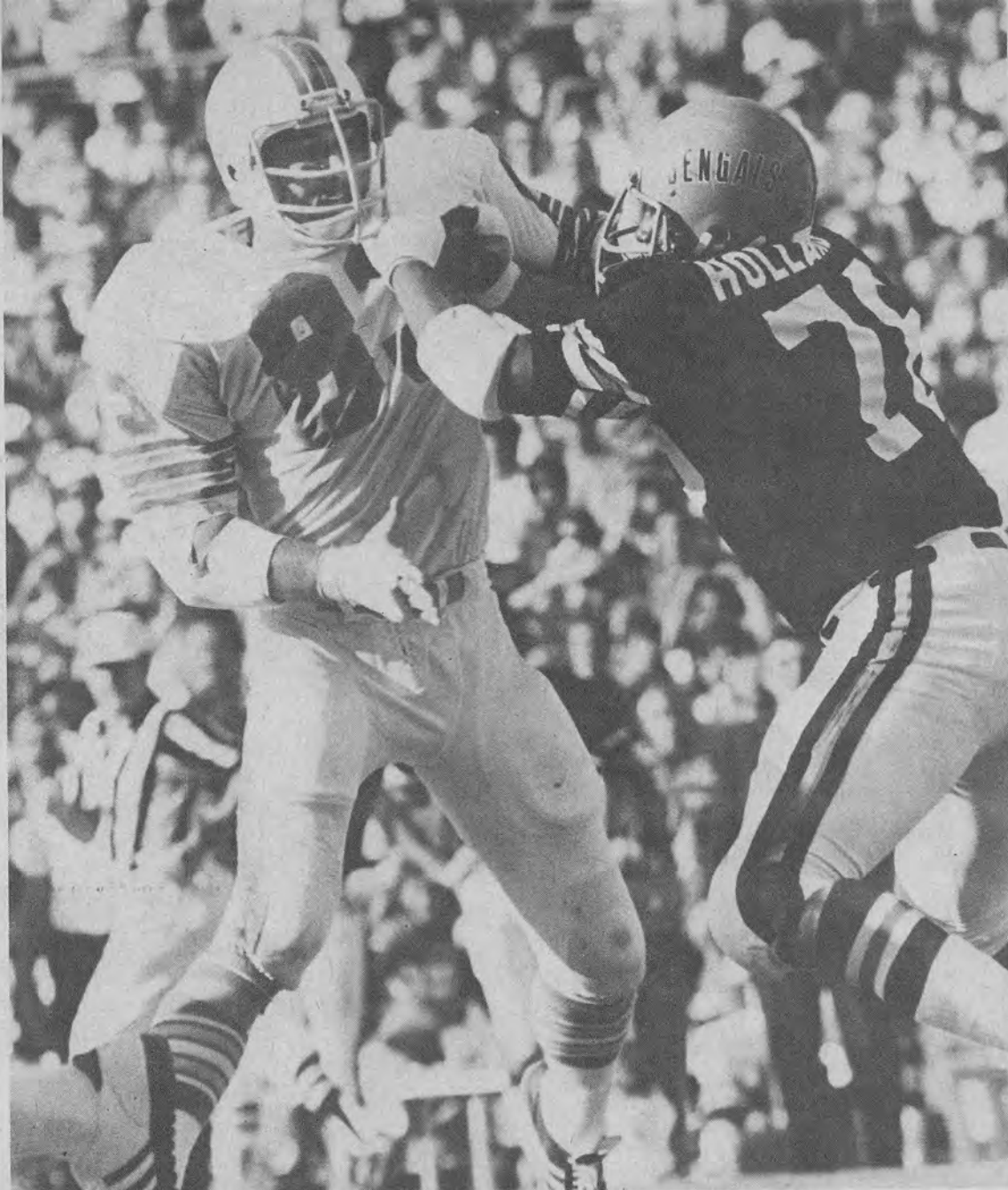
By Vern Den Herder
Defensive End
Miami Dolphins

You certainly don't need me to tell you that it's been an eventful off-season in professional football.

Two areas in particular—the negotiations between the National Football League Players Association and the owners, and the signing of NFL players



Making an inside move on Cincinnati Bengal tackle Vernon Holland, Den Herder watches the play develop and gets ready to make the tackle



by the new World Football League—have made it especially so.

And, with words like “strike” and “war” being bandied about, there have been tensions and a certain atmosphere of confrontation.

To no one's surprise, much attention has been focused on my own team, the Miami Dolphins.

Since we've won the last two Super Bowls, it's to be expected that more than the usual amount of interest is shown in how every new situation affects us.

Along with it has come a lot of speculation and nit-picking. Things have a habit of being blown out of proportion and sensationalized by those searching for things like dissension—things that don't exist.

No doubt the biggest bombshell was

the WFL's signing of three of my teammates—Larry Csonka, Paul Warfield and Jim Kiick—to contracts effective next year.

So right away the rumors began: that this Dolphin player, that one or that one would also sign with the WFL or that there was internal squabbling or that, in general, the team was beginning to crumble.

What the talk usually boils down to is a two-part question:

Can we repeat as Super Bowl champions, and will we continue to be successful, despite the loss of Larry, Jim and Paul?

It's a question I welcome. I welcome it because it gives me the opportunity to tell you what the Miami Dolphins are all about.

First, let me say simply that the Miami Dolphins are a team. I mean that in every sense of the word. Not one player, two players or a few, but a team—a team built on pride.

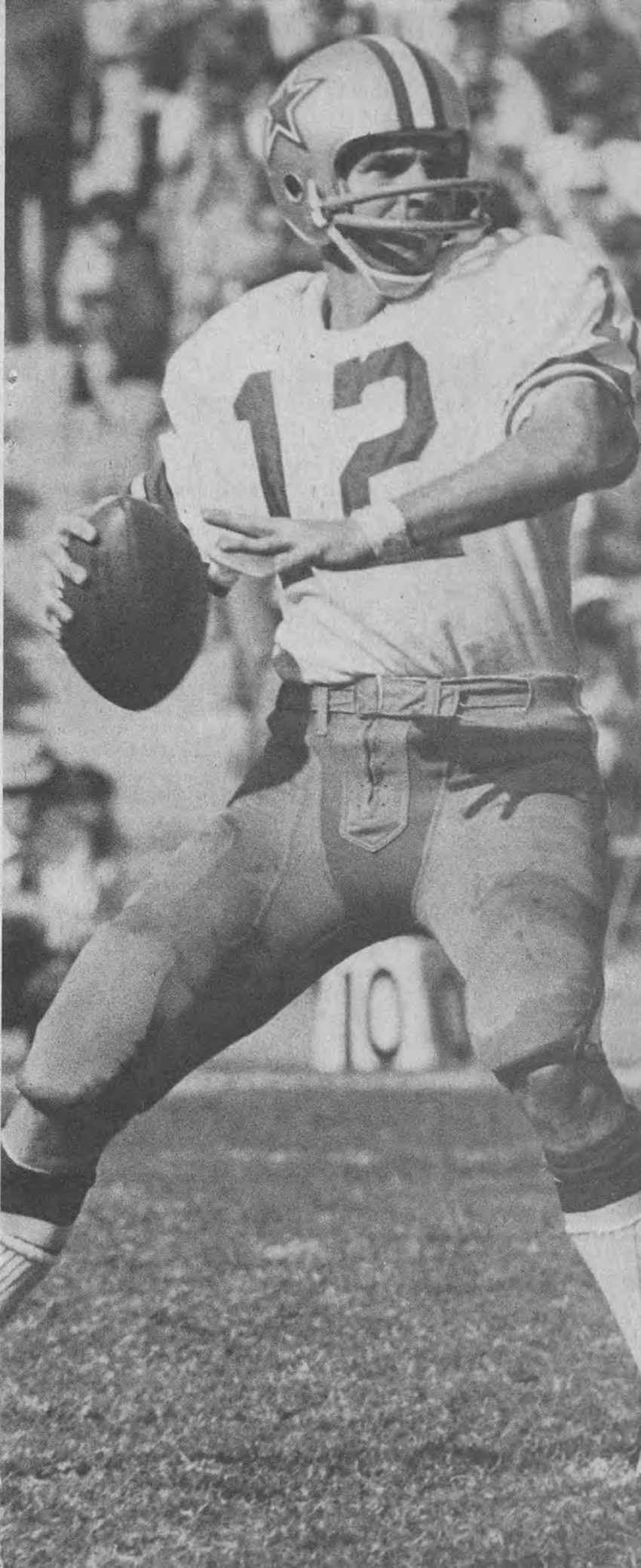
A typical response to that might be that it all sounds pretty corny. Maybe it does to some people. But it happens to be true.

Now I don't mean to leave the impression that the loss of those three guys won't be felt. They'll be missed. Very much.

But that's a year away. There's still the matter of the season that's about to begin.

As for wondering about the amount of effort they'll be giving this season on the field, you can stop. There's absolutely no doubt in my mind that it'll be their usual.

continued on page 96



NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

What do you want to know about each team in the NFC? The complete rundowns on the following pages start with a detailed examination of the team under study. This is followed by vital statistics from the '73 season. Then the individual pros are rated according to Sportfacts own Performance Quotients alongside a roster that includes height, weight, age, years of pro experience and college of each player. The Performance Quotients are a rating system for each unit of each team, based on a scale of 1 to 5. Quarterbacks, running backs, receivers, linemen and kickers are appraised on offense; the front line, linebackers, cornerbacks and safeties are evaluated on defense. A unit rated 1 is the best or tied for best in the league; a rating of 2 stands for excellent; 3 equals good; 4 is fair; and 5 is poor. Teams are arranged in their predicted order of finish in each division. The team our experts believe will qualify for the playoffs as the wild-card team is the Atlanta Falcons. The NFC champion? We predict it will be the Los Angeles Rams.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS



Billy Kilmer takes the snap and gets ready to hand off.

This is Washington, D.C. First in erasures . . . first in bumbling intrigue . . . and first in the NFC East.

The Redskins figure to do what the other employees of our nation's capital have failed to do—win over the people. They have age, true, but not dangerously so. They have experience. They have poise. They have dedication. They have pride. And they have George Allen, so whatever they might not have he'll buy.

They have made the playoffs in each of the last three years—the only three years Gorgeous George has been their leader. They made it to the Super Bowl two years ago. Indeed, they could make it again this year, in what might be the last hurrah for many of their aging warriors.

The offense? It starts with a need for more consistent line play, but after George gets through sorting out his tackles from his guards, he'll come up with Terry Hermeling and George Starke at tackles, Walt Sweeney or John Wilbur and Paul Laaveg at guards and All-Pro Len Hauss at center. That will leave Ray Schoenke, Dan Ryczek, Cornelius Johnson and Walter Rock as the bench strength, though Rock will fight for Starke's job.

Runners? Well, there are Larry Brown and Duane Thomas. So much for halfback. There was a bit of a problem in the spring, when fullback Charley Harraway, having played out his option,

flew off to the WFL's Birmingham Americans. So what did George do. He bartered off another draft choice for the Rams' Larry Smith, another WFL defector, though not until 1975. Behind Smith will be Moses Denson, Herb Mulkey and Bob Brunet. So much for fullback.

The wide receivers are among the best around—Charley Taylor and Roy Jefferson, who caught exactly 100 passes between them in 1973. Jerry Smith, a capable tight end, will get help from Alvin Reed.

Okay, quarterbacks. You're right. Sonny Jurgensen is 40 years old, and true, Bill Kilmer is 34, and between them are 29 years of NFL experience. But they're back, and just in case arthritis hits, wily George has come up with Joe Theismann, via another trade (for future draft choices, of course) with Miami. Joe had been in Canada for two years, proving he is a pro quarterback after all. Now George has an "experienced rookie" he doesn't pay for until 1976.

Maybe people are right. Maybe George should be President.

His defense needs very little fixing. He has the proper blend of talent and experience, with enough youth to keep the old guys puffing.

Up front the ends will be Ron McDole and Verlon Biggs, and the tackles will be Diron Talbert and either Manny Sis-trunk or Bill Brundige, with the latter

**NFC
East**

**Prediction:
First**

two probably working in a shuttle system. Willie Holman, having come from Chicago in mid-season last year, will fight for a job.

Chris Hanburger and Dave Robinson are the outside linebackers, both grizzled All-Pros. The middle man will be Myron Pottios or, if he's more concerned with Medicare, Hal McLinton or Russ Tillman.

The secondary is sound—and veteran.

Pat Fischer and Mike Bass man the corners, and had the 34-year-old Fischer not been hurt in the playoff game against Minnesota, Washington could have won and gone on to the NFC championship.

Ken Houston was acquired last season from the Oilers. He is a marvelous strong safety and proved it by becoming an All-Pro selection in his first Redskin season. Now he's back—and more familiar with Allen's defense. Brig Owens is the free safety, a man who has shown continued improvement through eight seasons. But he's only 31. He has to age a bit before he becomes one of the Redskins' really super performers.

And just in case there is an injury (though which of the Fates would dare interfere with Allen?), George traded for Bryant Salter, a strong and young safety from San Diego. Salter and Rosey Taylor will make up the reserve group, but the former could well find himself playing a lot, especially in Allen's "nickel defense" which puts a fifth back on the field in sure-pass situations.

Kicking has been a problem lately, at least placekicking. Curt Knight, the most inconsistent of men, made just 22 of 42 field goals last season. It was enough to bring a frown to George's otherwise crinkled, smiling face. So the NFL owners solved his little problem—they just about took the field goal out of the game with their rules amendments, and now Knight can kick or not kick and it won't really bother Allen.

Mike Bragg is the punter, far more than adequate, and probably more of a threat now that accuracy will count more than distance.

1973 RECORD (10-5)

38 San Diego	0	33 San Francisco	9
27 St. Louis	34	22 Baltimore	14
28 Philadelphia	7	20 Detroit	0
14 Dallas	7	27 New York Giants	24
21 New York Giants	3	7 Dallas	27
31 St. Louis	13	38 Philadelphia	20
3 New Orleans	19	(Playoff)	Owens
16 Pittsburgh	21	20 Minnesota	27

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	37	22	103
14†	0	0	84
7	0	0	42
4	0	0	24
2	0	0	12
2	0	0	12

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
6	32	0	22	5.3
5	161	1	68	32.2
5	123	1	27	24.6
4	98	1	39	24.5
3	99	0	67	33.0

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
273††	860	8	27	3.2
128	452	1	16	3.5
32	95	0	13	3.0
8	20	0	7	2.5

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
64	2581	61	40.3

SYMBOLS †—Conference leader
††—Tied for conference lead
x—Signed with WFL for 1974

Brown
xHarraway
Thomas
Mul-Key

PASSING

Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
Kilmer	227	122	1656	64	14	53.7
Jurgensen	145	87	904	36	6	60.0

C. Taylor
Jefferson
Brown
xHarraway
Smith

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
59	801	7	53	13.6
41	595	1	36	14.5
40	482	6	64	12.1
32	291	3	31	9.1
19	215	0	25	11.3

Receivers	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Duncan	28	228	0	18
Mul-Key	11	103	0	27

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
28	228	0	18	8.1
11	103	0	27	9.4

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
36†	1011†	1††	97††	28.1
4	65	0	38	16.3

OFFENSE

Ht Wt Age Exp College

QUARTERBACKS

Kilmer, Bill	6-0	204	34	13	UCLA
Jurgensen, Sonny	6-0	203	40	18	Duke
Theismann, Joe	6-1	184	25	1	Notre Dame

RUNNING BACKS

*Brown, Larry	5-11	195	27	6	Kansas City
Smith, Larry	6-3	220	26	6	Florida
Thomas, Duane	6-2	215	27	4	West Texas State
Denson, Moses	6-1	215	35	1	Md.-Eastern Shore
Mul-Key, Herb	6-0	190	24	3	None
Brunet, Bob	6-1	205	28	6	Louisiana Tech
Hull, Mike	6-3	220	28	7	Southern California

RECEIVERS

Taylor, Charley (W)	6-3	210	32	11	Arizona State
Jefferson, Roy (W)	6-2	195	30	10	Utah
Smith, Jerry (T)	6-3	208	31	10	Arizona State
Grant, Frank (W)	5-11	181	24	2	So. Colorado St.
Reed, Alvin (T)	6-5	235	30	8	Prairie View
Hancock, Mike (T)	6-4	220	24	2	Idaho State
Malinchak, Bill (W)	6-1	200	30	9	Indiana

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

Stark, George (T)	6-5	249	25	2	Columbia
Hermeling, Terry (T)	6-5	255	27	5	Nevada-Reno
Laaveg, Paul (G)	6-4	245	25	5	Iowa
Sweeney, Walt (G)	6-4	254	33	12	Syracuse
Hauss, Len (C)	6-2	235	32	11	Georgia
*Wilbur, John (G)	6-3	251	31	9	Stanford
Rock, Walter (T)	6-5	255	32	12	Maryland
Schoenke, Ray (G-T)	6-4	250	33	11	SMU
Ryczek, Dan (C)	6-3	249	25	2	Virginia
Johnson, Cornelius (G)	6-2	245	30	7	Virginia Union

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

Knight, Curt (Pk)	6-2	190	31	6	Coast Guard
Bragg, Mike (P)	5-11	186	27	7	Richmond

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

McDole, Ron (E)	6-4	265	34	14	Nebraska
Biggs, Verlon (E)	6-4	275	31	10	Jackson State
Brundige, Bill (T)	6-5	270	25	5	Colorado
Talbert, Diron (T)	6-5	255	30	8	Texas
Sistrunk, Manuel (T)	6-5	265	27	5	Arkansas AM&N
Holman, Willie (E)	6-4	254	29	7	South Carolina St.

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

Robinson, Dave (O)	6-3	245	33	10	Penn State
Hanburger, Chris (O)	6-2	218	33	10	North Carolina
Pottios, Myron (M)	6-2	232	35	14	Notre Dame
Pergine, John (D)	6-1	225	28	6	Notre Dame
Tillman, Russell (M)	6-2	230	28	5	Northern Arizona
McLinton, Harold (M)	6-2	235	27	6	Southern

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

Fischer, Pat	5-9	170	34	14	Nebraska
Bass, Mike	6-0	190	29	7	Michigan
Duncan, Speedy	5-10	180	32	11	Jackson State

SAFETIES

Houston, Ken (S)	6-3	198	29	8	Prairie View
Owens, Brig (W)	5-11	190	31	9	Cincinnati
Taylor, Rosey (W)	5-11	186	36	14	Grambling
Salter, Bryant (S)	6-4	195	24	4	Pittsburgh

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Kilmer is the incumbent starter, Jurgensen wants one more year (and he's 40 now) while Theismann is the hope for the future—and in this case, the future might be now. PERF. QT.: 3.

The unit is shaken by the defection of Charley Harraway to the WFL. The heir-apparent is Smith, from the Rams. Thomas may not be suited for fullback duty with a star halfback in the backfield. Brown is a super player who does it all—run, block, receive. Mul-Key, another quick runner, is not overly strong. Denson was a star in Canada and could help here. If Brunet shows anything, he'll keep Hull on special teams. PERF. QT.: 3.

Taylor may be the best in the conference; he has speed and moves. Jefferson isn't far behind him, and as a unit they are maddening to defenses. Smith is a proved tight end. Grant, a youngster, amazes observers with his quickness. Reed is a satisfactory backup, or he can even start. Hancock impressed coaches as a rookie, an unusual situation on a George Allen team. Malinchak is strictly bench and special-teams material. PERF. QT.: 2.

Fair, almost good, is the rating of this unit. Its members performed better in '72 than last year. Laaveg, Hermeling and, of course, Hauss are the most consistent performers. Hauss should be recovered from off-season surgery; if not, the Skins have trouble. Sweeney came from San Diego; he will start for WFL-bound Wilbur. Rock and Starke should fight it out for the other tackle job. Schoenke can start or fill in at guard or tackle. Ryczek impressed Coach Allen, while Johnson, another newcomer (from the Colts), may well push Laaveg. A return to 1972 form by this unit will help the team's running game. PERF. QT.: 3.

Knight, a disaster much of '73, missed 20 of 42 field-goal tries. He'll improve or be replaced. Bragg is steady, clever. PERF. QT.: 3.

Veterans McDole and Biggs may be touched by age but neither showed signs of deterioration last season. Talbert is the best lineman, a blend of size, strength and agility. Brundige and Sistrunk alternated in '72 and '73 and might do so again in specific down-and-distance situations. Holman came from the Bears in mid-season and will push McDole for a regular job. PERF. QT.: 2.

The outside men are superb, with both Hanburger and Robinson experienced and Pro Bowl veterans. Robinson, still quick despite his years, was new last year and now knows Allen's intricate system better. Pottios, McLinton and Tillman will battle for the middle job. Pergine seems no better than an adequate replacement, and if injuries strike here they could spoil the season. PERF. QT.: 2.

Fischer, the guts and glue of the secondary, played well again last year. Bass improves every year; he may be at his peak right now. Duncan is valuable on special teams. PERF. QT.: 2.

Houston came from the Oilers and earned All-Pro honors. He does everything well. Owens is better because of Houston, but Brig isn't bad on his own. Taylor was hurt all of '73. Salter, who came from San Diego, will play in five-back alignments. PERF. QT.: 2.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES



Harold Carmichael led the league with 67 catches in '73.

Can the Philadelphia Eagles continue their resurgence under Coach Mike McCormack? Can they become a factor in the NFC East race? Do they dare to harbor thoughts of a playoff berth?

The answers to all these questions: Yes, if only they play defense.

The Eagles had an offense last year that might have registered nine on the Richter Scale.

They had Roman Gabriel at quarterback, imported from L.A. He led the NFL in attempts and completions and yardage and tied for TD passes.

They had the NFL's leading receiver, towering (6-8) Harold Carmichael, who caught 67 of Roman's candles. They had two others in the top five among the NFC's receivers—rookie Charlie Young, the tight end who grabbed 55 passes, and second-year halfback Tommy Sullivan, who caught 50 balls when he wasn't occupied rushing for 968 yards.

Oh, yes, fullback Norm Bulaich caught 42 passes and gained 436 yards after taking hand-offs.

Indeed, it was a dandy offense. It scored 310 points. It gave a start to such outstanding young linemen as tackle Jerry Sisemore and center Guy Morriss, who made better players out of veterans Steve Smith (the other tackle), and guards Wade Key and Mark Nordquist.

It was a super offense, but then (a little dirge-type music here) there was the defense.

The defense surrendered 393 points. Would you believe that only the Houston Oilers surrendered more in the entire National Football League? Believe it. It happens to be true.

But from the ashes of even such a disaster rises hope. There were rookies and other assorted youngsters playing regularly. They paid their dues. Now, with the addition of a star veteran, they're ready to extract same from other teams.

The front line should have Richard Harris, Jerry Patton or Bill Dunstan, Gary Pettigrew and Will Wynn. Dunstan and Wynn were rookies; Patton, a good one, was acquired in the off-season from the Buffalo Bills; Harris and Pettigrew, veterans both, weren't accustomed to such help. They'll count on it now, and thrive. Not much depth here, though, with just three rookies—Jim Cagle, Mitch Sutton and Willie Cullars—listed as subs.

The linebacking is another problem; indeed, the single greatest problem McCormack must deal with all season. His middle linebacking is stabilized with the addition of Bill Bergey, who starred for Paul Brown in Cincinnati before losing favor after indicating a preference for the WFL. Journeyman Dean Halverson is the weak-side linebacker with veteran Steve Zabel, a bit disappointing but still filled with potential, set to go on the strong-side.

NFC East Prediction: Second

The secondary? Ah, potentially another strong area.

The cornerbacks will be Joe Lavender and Al Nelson. Lavender was a rookie last year, Nelson is a veteran of nine years. The youngster has promise.

All-Pro Bill Bradley will be a free safety, of course, while another of 1973's super rookies, Randy Logan, is the strong safety. They form a nice package, and opposition passers will soon discover an almost-impenetrable shield out there if the linebackers cooperate.

Of course, the offense can go all to pot if Gabriel, now 34 and setting out on his 13th season, gets injured or otherwise idled. He has a history of chronic elbow, shoulder and arm problems. In 1972 he was just a shell, which prompted the Rams to trade him in the first place. John Reaves is next-in-line, but why were the Eagles trying so hard to trade him all winter? And why would they trade for Mike Boryla, the rookie from Stanford, who was drafted fourth by Cincinnati?

And can Carmichael, Young and the backs continue to catch as many passes as they did last year? Surely someone will discover that the Eagles live by the pass, and that to shut it off will place serious burdens on Sullivan and Bulaich (if the latter stays healthy).

If the Eagles are truly an emerging team, they'll find a way to shore up the defense while keeping the offense functioning at its established, volatile level. But are they truly coming on? Was last year simply a freak?

McCormack thinks not. "Gabriel is young as far as quarterbacks are concerned these days," he says, "and the main thing to remember about the rest of the guys is that if they did something right once, they can do it again and again. We proved to ourselves last season that we could win, move the ball and score points. We know that now. This year, we have to prove we can play tough defense. If we do, we'll win."

If they do, they can finish second in the division. And wouldn't that be an astounding development?

1973 RECORD (5-8-1)

23 St. Louis	34	24 New England	23
23 New York Giants	23	27 Atlanta	44
7 Washington	28	10 Dallas	31
26 Buffalo	27	20 New York Giants	16
27 St. Louis	24	28 San Francisco	38
21 Minnesota	28	24 New York Jets	23
30 Dallas	16	20 Washington	38

SYMBOLS †—Conference leader
 ††—Tied for conference lead

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	34	24	106
9	0	0	54
7	0	0	42
5	0	0	30
4	0	0	24

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
5	38	0	30	7.6
4	21	0	18	5.3
2	48	1	45	24.0
2	13	0	7	6.5

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
217	968	4	37	4.5
106	436	1	20	4.1
36	178	1	24	4.9
20	91	0	15	4.6

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
46	1881	66	40.9

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
8	106	0	43	13.3
5	10	0	5	2.0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
16	413	0	36	25.8
12	280	0	32	23.3

PASSING

Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
460†	270†	3219†	80	23††	12	58.7
19	5	17	6	0	1	26.3

Sullivan
 Bulaich
 James
 Bailey

Carmichael
 Young
 Sullivan
 Bulaich
 Zimmerman

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
67†	1116†	9	73	16.7
55	854	6	80	15.5
50	322	1	29	6.4
42	403	3	80	9.6
22	220	3	30	10.0

Bradley
 Alexander

James
 Sullivan

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-4	220	34	13	North Carolina St.
6-3	210	24	3	Florida
6-3	200	23	1	Stanford

RUNNING BACKS

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-0	190	24	3	Miami (Fla.)
6-1	218	27	5	TCU
6-2	210	26	4	Louisville
6-1	202	25	3	New Mexico State
6-2	211	25	4	Florida State
6-0	192	25	2	Trinity (Tex.)

RECEIVERS

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-8	225	24	4	Southern
6-3	195	24	2	N.E. Louisiana
6-4	238	23	2	Southern California
6-1	180	30	9	Arizona State
6-1	195	24	2	Eastern Washington
6-2	189	25	4	Duke
6-4	235	30	8	Minnesota

INTERIOR LINEMEN

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-4	260	23	2	Texas
6-5	250	30	8	Michigan
6-5	245	27	5	S.W. Texas State
6-4	246	28	7	Pacific
6-4	255	23	2	TCU
6-1	255	26	4	Md.-Eastern Shore
6-3	248	25	3	Minnesota

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-1	255	27	6	Palomar J.C.
6-1	195	30	8	S.F. Austin

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

FRONT LINEMEN

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-5	265	26	4	Grambling
6-4	245	25	2	Tennessee State
6-3	265	28	4	Nebraska
6-5	255	29	9	Stanford
6-4	250	25	2	Utah State
6-5	247	22	1	Georgia
6-4	255	23	1	Kansas
6-5	250	23	1	Kansas State

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-4	234	26	5	Oklahoma
6-2	230	28	6	Washington
6-2	243	29	6	Arkansas State
6-2	224	22	1	Kentucky
6-1	220	24	3	North Carolina
6-2	222	26	4	Villanova
6-3	245	23	1	Howard Payne

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
5-11	186	30	10	Cincinnati
6-4	190	25	2	San Diego State
5-10	180	29	6	Jackson State
6-0	183	29	7	Tennessee State

SAFETIES

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-1	195	23	2	Michigan
5-11	190	27	6	Texas
5-11	187	33	12	UCLA
6-3	215	22	1	Southern California

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety.

Performance Quotients

Gabriel was prolific, productive and professional—all qualities lacking in previous Philly quarterbacks. Reaves has been on the trading block because of Boryla, acquired from the Bengals. PERF. QT.: 2.

Sullivan gained almost 1,000 yards; he has quickness and surprising power. Bulaich and Bougess combine to make one fullback, since both have a history of injury. James is quick, agile, not overly strong but dangerous. Bailey has good size and could push for the fullback spot. Oliver was a rookie who displayed promise. Sullivan and Bulaich are exceptional receivers. PERF. QT.: 2.

Carmichael blossomed in one season into the NFL's catch-leader with 67. He's too big to cover man-to-man and has deceptive speed. Zimmerman will contest Hawkins and Chesson for the other wide spot and probably win. Young was Rookie of the Year, caught 55 passes and blocked like a truck. Picard and Kramer are, at best, backup material. Carmichael, Sullivan and Young were in the NFC's top five receivers; Bulaich was ninth. PERF. QT.: 1.

Sisemore and Morris were rookies who earned starting jobs along with significant plaudits from the opposition. Sisemore blocked well, took on veteran ends and turned them around. Key and Nordquist continued to show improvement. Smith is the most vulnerable at this point. But there isn't much depth. Kirksey, a former Jet, is still trying to make the NFL grade. Winfield is in the same boat. PERF. QT.: 3.

Dempsey has fantastic range; he may be one of the few unaffected by the new rules. McNeill is a satisfactory punter. PERF. QT.: 2.

This unit came along nicely after the infusion of rookies Wynn and Dunstan. Both have good size and played surprisingly well. Harris will be moved from tackle to end and should enjoy the change. Pettigrew is an old hand; he may be the strongest penetrator of the group. Patton, from Buffalo, will be a helpful addition. Cagle is a highly regarded rookie, as is Sutton. The Eagles went heavily for defense in the draft and also came up with Cullars. All three have a good chance to stick. PERF. QT.: 3.

The acquisition of Bergey puts the middle in fine hands. But Zabel, with size and some experience, on the strong-side and journeyman Halverson are not in the top rung of NFL linebackers. Bergey's presence will help them—in fact, it can be expected to help the entire defense—but that's not an ultimate answer. Bunting and Sodaski have showed promise, but not consistency. Rookies LeMaster and Woods are question marks. PERF. QT.: 3.

Nelson, the old pro, and Lavender, a rookie, could have done worse. But Coleman and Outlaw should be cheered at their prospects of unseating one or both. Lavender has real promise. The others are about average. PERF. QT.: 3.

Things are better here, because of Bradley's All-Pro stature and Logan's surprising rookie performance. There's good speed and range in these two, so Alexander and the rookie Parker are reserves at best. Alexander is in danger of being cut. PERF. QT.: 2.

DALLAS COWBOYS



Strong-side safety Cornell Green closes in for the tackle.

It is the psyche of the Dallas Cowboys, rather than any specific deficiencies, that persuades one to figure them for a less-than-joyous season in 1974.

They are tight, rigidly controlled by Coach Tom Landry, disciplined and categorized and exhorted to perform far more like skilled automatons than free-wheeling young (and some not so young) men.

A handful of the Cowboys signed up with WFL teams this spring, and that caused far more public comment and private fury among the team's administrators than was produced by any of the other clubs affected by the new league—including the Cincinnati Bengals who went to court over Bill Bergey's contract with the new organization.

But more basically, Dallas has some question-mark areas and some lack of depth.

Quarterback, for instance, will be fine just so long as nothing happens to the starter, Roger Staubach. Behind him is Craig Morton, a WFL signee and long a recalcitrant part of the Dallas Method. Landry has already stated Morton's prospects: "He'll have no chance to win the starting job." Staubach had better stay just as sweet as he is, the same fellow who led the league in passing last year.

While on the offense, what of the runners? Calvin Hill, the best, defected. He'll be back this season, of course, and naturally he'll play. Or will he? Can Lan-

dry spite himself out of a 1,142-yard gainer? Behind Hill is Robert Newhouse, promising but not yet satisfactory. Walt Garrison is the fullback, a trifle short on size but terribly long on determination and courage. Behind him are sub Les Strayhorn and one of the two first-round picks, Charles Young, a strapping runner from North Carolina State. He could well find himself playing a lot.

Otto Stowe, injured after seven games last year, will be one of the starting wide receivers. Bob Hayes, Drew Pearson or Golden Richards will be the other, with Billy Joe DuPree and Jean Fugett alternating at tight end and carrying in the plays Coach Landry calls on the sideline.

The interior line is fine. John Niland and Blaine Nye are the guards, Rayfield Wright and Ralph Neely the tackles, John Fitzgerald the center. Such as Bruce Walton, Rodney Wallace and Jim Arneson back them up. The only competition for a starting job comes between Wallace and Neely.

Defensively, things seem quite solid; but, again, a few questions must be at least spoken aloud.

There is an overabundance of defensive line help (possible trading material?) and the fight for jobs should be just lovely. At the outset, there are no changes planned, which means the ends will be Larry Cole and Pat Toomay, the tackles Bob Lilly and Jethro Pugh.

But consider the presence of Ed "Too

NFC
East

Prediction:
Third

Tall" Jones, the 6-8, 260-pound defensive end who was the NFL's first draft choice. He went to Dallas, thanks to a year-old trade between the Cowboys and Houston.

If Too Tall is too good to sit, someone will have to be moved either to tackle or to the bench. Of the ends, Cole is best equipped for duty inside, and if Lilly, now a 35-year-old, 13-year veteran troubled by back and leg injuries, can't make it all the way back, he'll be removed.

That would set up a Jones-Toomay end pair, with Pugh and Cole inside. Bill Gregory, who filled in for Lilly last year, has the tools to be a regular, but perhaps not in Dallas, and second-year man Harvey Martin could challenge for a spot, also.

Linebackers? Lee Roy Jordan is in the middle. That's all! But D. D. Lewis is on one side and Dave Edwards on the other. Lewis is a bit small (6-1, 225) and Edwards is, after all, 34 years old. That may force the move of Rodrigo Barnes from the middle behind Jordan into a hassle for one of the outside jobs. He's a stunning hitter and could play. John Babinecz is another with a chance, as is Mike Keller.

In the secondary, only Charley Waters on one corner is a question mark. Safeties are Cliff Harris and Cornell Green, with Mel Renfro on the other corner. Benny Barnes will provide competition at the safeties with Mark Washington (and Barnes?) trying to take Waters' job away. Waters can also be used as a safety, and that, in fact, may well be what ultimately happens.

The kicking game is sound, with little Toni Fritsch booting the field goals and Marv Bateman doing the punting. Bateman had some distance problems last year; this year it won't matter, so long as he's accurate.

And the Cowboys, brimming with talent, head into 1974 equally brimming with . . . what? Some age, some dissension, some insecurity.

It could lead to some kind of a slump.

1973 RECORD (11-5)

20 Chicago	17	31 Philadelphia	10
40 New Orleans	3	7 Miami	14
45 St. Louis	10	22 Denver	10
7 Washington	14	27 Washington	7
31 Los Angeles	37	30 St. Louis	3
45 New York Giants	28	(Playoff)	
16 Philadelphia	30	27 Los Angeles	16
38 Cincinnati	10	(NFC Championship)	
23 New York Giants	10	10 Minnesota	27

SYMBOLS †—Conference leader
 ††—Tied for conference lead

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
†Staubach	286	179	2428	53	23††	15	62.6†
Morton	32	13	174	53	3	1	40.6

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	43†	18	97
8	0	0	48
6	0	0	36
6	0	0	36
5	0	0	30

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
6	78	1	31	13.0
5	112	0	44	22.4
2	65	1	35	32.5
2	9	0	5	4.5

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
273††	1142	6	21	4.2
105	440	6	33	4.2
84	436	1	54	5.2
46	250	3	18	5.4

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
55	2290	62	41.6

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
21	139	0	46	6.6

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
32	290	0	29	9.1
29	392	5	40	13.5
26	273	2	53	10.5
23	389	6	45	16.9
22	388	2	40	17.6
22	360	3	47	16.4

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
7	155	0	26	22.1
6	175	0	63	29.2
6	148	0	33	24.7

OFFENSE

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
QUARTERBACKS					
Staubach, Roger	6-3	197	32	6	Navy
*Morton, Craig	6-4	214	31	10	California
Concannon, Jack	6-3	200	30	9	Boston College
RUNNING BACKS					
*Hill, Calvin	6-4	227	27	6	Yale
Garrison, Walt	6-0	205	30	9	Oklahoma State
Newhouse, Robert	5-10	202	24	3	Houston
Young, Charles	6-2	205	22	1	North Carolina St.
Strayhorn, Les	5-10	205	23	2	East Carolina
Robinson, Larry	6-4	210	23	2	Tennessee
RECEIVERS					
*Stowe, Otto (W)	6-2	188	25	4	Iowa State
Hayes, Bob (W)	5-11	185	31	10	Florida A&M
DuPree, Billy Joe (T)	6-4	225	24	2	Michigan State
Pearson, Drew (W)	6-0	175	23	2	Tulsa
Richards, Golden (W)	6-0	172	23	2	Hawaii
Fugett, Jean (T)	6-3	220	22	3	Amherst
INTERIOR LINEMEN					
*Wright, Rayfield (T)	6-6	255	29	8	Fort Valley St.
Neely, Ralph (T)	6-6	265	30	10	Oklahoma
Niland, John (G)	6-3	245	30	9	Iowa
Nye, Blaine (G)	6-4	251	28	7	Stanford
Fitzgerald, John (C)	6-5	250	26	4	Boston College
Wallace, Rodney (T)	6-5	255	25	4	New Mexico
Arneson, Jim (C-G)	6-3	236	23	2	Arizona
Walton, Bruce (G-C)	6-6	251	23	2	UCLA
Manders, Dave (C)	6-2	250	33	10	Michigan State
KICKERS					
Fritsch, Tony (Pk)	5-7	185	29	4	None
Bateman, Marv (P)	6-4	213	24	3	Utah
DEFENSE					
Toomay, Pat (E)	6-5	247	26	5	Vanderbilt
Cole, Larry (E)	6-4	250	28	7	Hawaii
Lily, Bob (T)	6-5	260	35	14	TCU
Pugh, Jethro (T)	6-6	260	30	10	Elizabeth City (N.C.)
Gregory, Bill (T)	6-5	255	24	4	Wisconsin
Jones, Ed (E)	6-8	260	23	1	Tennessee State
Martin, Harvey (E)	6-5	262	23	2	East Texas State
LINEBACKERS					
*Lewis, D.D. (O)	6-1	225	28	6	Mississippi State
Edwards, Dave (O)	6-1	225	34	12	Auburn
Jordan, Lee Roy (M)	6-1	221	33	12	Alabama
Barnes, Rodrigo (O-M)	6-1	215	24	2	Rice
Babinecz, John (O)	6-1	222	24	3	Villanova
Keller, Mike (O)	6-4	221	22	2	Michigan
Peterson, Cal (O)	6-3	220	22	1	UCLA
Hutcherson, Ken (M)	6-3	218	23	1	Livingston (Ala.)
CORNERBACKS					
Renfro, Mel	6-0	190	32	11	Oregon
Waters, Charlie	6-1	193	25	5	Clemson
Washington, Mark	5-10	188	26	5	Morgan State
Andrade, Andy	5-11	193	23	1	Northern Michigan
SAFETIES					
Green, Cornell (S)	6-3	208	34	13	Utah State
Harris, Cliff (W)	6-0	184	25	5	Quachita
Barnes, Benny (W-S)	6-1	190	22	3	Stanford

*—WFL 1975

Performance Quotients

Everything is fine with Staubach healthy. He led the NFL in passing points and is a quality performer. WFL-defector Morton is erratic. Concannon has been inactive since '71. PERF. QT.: 2.

Hill, the team's best runner, has signed with the WFL for '75 and that set off tremors of disenchantment. But he's too good not to play—big, strong and fast. Garrison is the tough guy who takes it up the middle. Newhouse has potential but isn't ready for stardom. Strayhorn and Robinson are not stars, either. Young, a first round draft pick, might fight for a starting job. PERF. QT.: 3.

Stowe, headed for All-Pro honors until getting hurt, had 23 catches for 389 yards and six TDs in half a season. Hayes still has frightening speed. DuPree as a rookie alternated with Fugett, and they're both excellent. Pearson and Richards—both rookies last year—want starting jobs and one may have his way if a veteran slips. Pearson started late last season and has a slight lead. PERF. QT.: 2.

There are more than a few All-Pros here. Niland is one, a veteran guard with all the credentials. Wright is another, along with Minnesota's Ron Yary the best tackles in the league. Nye is close to All-Pro, always dependable, and Neely has been to the Pro Bowl. Fitzgerald won the center job from Manders and has a strong future. Wallace is the best of the rest and could unseat Neely. Arneson and Walton are still being groomed. Despite the familiarity of these names, this is a young unit; Niland and Neely are the senior starters at 30. The subs are good and young. PERF. QT.: 2.

Fritsch finally had the job to himself and did well enough. Bateman is an adequate punter. PERF. QT.: 3.

This may be the best unit in the conference. Lilly, recovered from a back injury, wants to play again, and if he plays at all he'll start. Toomay became an outstanding end and if still young. Cole, strong and mobile, may move inside to tackle if rookie Jones plays up to his notices. Pugh is close to All-Pro. Gregory filled in for Lilly and did a commendable job. Martin, a rookie last year, has determination and excellent quickness. PERF. QT.: 1.

With Jordan in the middle, things are fine. But with Lewis and Edwards on the flanks, things could be better. Barnes can help make them better, and he could be moved from the middle where he is Jordan's sub to win a job, probably that held by Lewis. He's a super hitter with cat-quickness. Babinecz is another who can win a job or at least be a top reserve. Keller will have to come back from an injury and fight off highly regarded rookie Peterson. Hutcherson has a chance. PERF. QT.: 3.

Renfro is older and almost as good, if not as quick, as ever. Waters is the weak link here. Washington or Benny Barnes, however, can take his job with a good summer. Fourth-rounder Andrade may get a trial at running back, also. PERF. QT.: 3.

Green was an All-Pro after years of injustice. Harris may yet become one of the NFC's top free safeties. Barnes is the sub for both but doesn't seem able to sit one of them down. PERF. QT.: 2.

NEW YORK GIANTS



Carter Campbell, 79, and Jack Gregory wrap up a Packer.

The last time Bill Arnsparger walked off a football field, it was as the winning "assistant head coach" in the Super Bowl. As chief aide to Miami's Don Shula, Arnsparger, the defensive coordinator, shared equally with his boss in the glory and satisfaction of victory.

The next time he walks onto a field, it will be as head coach of the New York Giants, a team that was 2-11-1 last year . . . a team that had more problems than Spiro the novelist . . . a team that underwent an agony of change and housecleaning.

What does the season hold for Arnsparger?

First of all, a flock of disenchanted Giants has already flown the coop. Carter Campbell, Randy Johnson, Vin Clements and John Douglas have all signed with the WFL. But all will be around this season, or at least as many of them as Arnsparger chooses.

Others are unhappy, including Ron Hornsby and Jim Files, but want a chance to see the new regime in operation.

So Arnsparger has that added burden as he attempts to make his first head coaching job a successful one.

The offense is directly affected by the WFL, since Johnson might well emerge as the starting quarterback and Clements could be the top fullback. But there is Ron Johnson, a superstar runner, at halfback, along with a trio of receivers as

good as any—tight end Bob Tucker, wide men Bob Grim and Don Herrmann.

If Randy doesn't get the job, old Norm Snead will. And if Clements is benched, Charlie Evans will play. But there are other runners with a chance—such as heralded rookie Leon McQuay, fleet Rocky Thompson and promising Clifton Davis.

McQuay may be the answer to the fullback problem, not that he can play as a fullback but because his presence, with Ron Johnson, might allow Arnsparger to "do away" with the fullback-type position entirely. Leon is a two-year Canadian League sensation, who left college (Tampa) after his sophomore year and now owns a three-year Giant contract.

The offensive line should have a new look—a much younger look. No. 1 draft pick John Hicks, the All-America from Ohio State, will be handed a job at guard. It will be his. He's a starter. Dick Enderle will most likely be the other guard, with Doug Van Horn (a converted guard) and John Hill or Willie Young at the tackles. Greg Larson's tenure as the center ended with his retirement after 13 years and Bob Hyland inherits his job.

No. 2 draft Tom Mullen, another guard, could fight for work, along with Mark Ellison.

Arnsparger may be overloaded with people who move the ball, but he certainly isn't in the same boat with people

NFC East Prediction: Fourth

who are supposed to stop it from being moved by other teams.

The defense is spotty—strong in spots, tissue-thin in others, unsettled in still others.

Up front, for instance, the starters figure to be Jack Gregory (an All-Pro two years ago) and Campbell at the ends, while John Mendenhall (a certain All-Pro one day soon) and Larry Jacobson at the tackles. That leaves such as Henry Reed, Dan Goich, Rich Glover, Roy Hilton and some rookies to get in line as the top reserves. Reed, a starter once upon a time, might be thought of as a line-backer now, or as the "53 man" in Arnsparger's defense that was so dramatically successful in Miami.

The linebackers are going to have to earn jobs, but at the moment the alignment is as it was in 1972, not as it was last year. Jim Files has been moved back to the strong-side, Ron Hornsby reinstated in the middle and Pat Hughes stays at the weak-side. Files can be a superb linebacker if he doesn't make good on his threat to retire from football. Hornsby needs only the chance to hold the job, since he hits with fury and isn't bad on pass coverage. Hughes, constantly the team's highest-graded linebacker, remains anonymous.

In reserve will be Brian Kelley, Douglas, Brad Van Pelt and maybe rookie Rick Dvorak, another end-line-backer swing man, like Reed.

The secondary has some woes, but not as many as people think. Pete Athas, whose best position is free safety, is the left cornerback. That's because Spider Lockhart is entrenched—or was—at free safety. Willie Williams is on the right corner and Chuck Crist inherits Richmond Flowers' job at strong safety.

Eldridge Small, also a wide receiver possibility, is a cornerback reserve, and if Athas goes to Lockhart's spot, Eldridge gets a job.

Tom Blanchard capably handles the punting, and Pete Gogolak, the original side-wheeling Hungarian, will do the placekicking again.

1973 RECORD (2-11-1)

34 Houston	14	0	Oakland	42
23 Philadelphia	23	10	Dallas	23
10 Cleveland	12	24	St. Louis	13
14 Green Bay	16	16	Philadelphia	20
3 Washington	21	24	Washington	27
28 Dallas	45	6	Los Angeles	40
27 St. Louis	35	7	Minnesota	31

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Gogolak	0	25	17
Ron Johnson	9	0	0
Tucker	5	0	0
Clements	2	0	0
Grim	2	0	0
Herrmann	2	0	0
*Roland	2	0	0

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Athas	5	52	0	26
Williams	4	82	0	35
Hughes	3	13	0	11
Crist	2	6	0	6
Lockhart	2	3	0	2

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Ron Johnson	260	902	6	29
Clements	57	214	1	11
*Roland	53	142	1	10
**Orduna	36	104	1	25

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
Blanchard	56	2347	62

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Athas	20	153	0	28

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Tucker	50	681	5	33
Herrmann	43	520	2	46
Grim	37	593	2	48
Ron Johnson	32	377	3	45
*Roland	22	190	1	30

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Houston	15	375	0	51
*Love	18	396	0	39

PASSING

Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
Snead	235	131	1483	46	7	22
Ra. Johnson	177	99	1279	48	7	8

OFFENSE

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
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QUARTERBACKS

Snead, Norm	6-4	215	35	14	Wake Forest
*Johnson, Randy	6-3	205	30	9	Texas A&I
Hart, Leo	6-4	215	26	4	Duke
Summerell, Carl	6-3	208	23	1	East Carolina

RUNNING BACKS

Johnson, Ron	6-1	205	26	6	Michigan
Evans, Charlie	6-1	220	26	4	Southern California
McQuay, Leon	5-10	210	24	1	Tampa
*Clements, Vin	6-3	215	25	3	Connecticut
Thompson, Rocky	5-11	200	26	4	West Texas State
Davis, Clifton	6-2	210	23	1	Alcorn A&M

RECEIVERS

Grim, Bob (W)	6-0	200	29	8	Oregon State
Herrmann, Don (W)	6-2	205	27	6	Waynesburg
Tucker, Bob (T)	6-3	230	28	5	Bloomsburg State
Houston, Rich (W)	6-2	195	28	6	East Texas State
Gatewood, Tom (W-T)	6-3	215	23	3	Notre Dame
Clune, Don (W)	6-3	195	22	1	Pennsylvania

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

Van Horn, Doug (T)	6-3	245	30	8	Ohio State
Young, Willie (T)	6-0	265	31	9	Grambling
Enderle, Dick (G)	6-2	250	27	6	Minnesota
Hicks, John (G)	6-2	258	22	1	Ohio State
Hyland, Bob (C)	6-5	255	29	8	Boston College
Ellison, Mark (G)	6-2	250	25	3	Dayton
Hill, John (T-C)	6-2	245	24	3	Lehigh
Mullen, Tom (G)	6-3	245	23	1	S.W. Missouri St.

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

Gogolak, Pete (Pk)	6-1	190	32	11	Cornell
Blanchard, Tom (P)	6-0	190	25	4	Oregon

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

Gregory, Jack (E)	6-5	250	29	8	Delta State
*Campbell, Carter (E)	6-4	248	27	5	Weber State
Mendenhall, John (T)	6-1	255	25	3	Grambling
Jacobson, Larry (T)	6-6	260	24	3	Nebraska
Reed, Henry (E)	6-3	230	25	4	Weber State
Hilton, Roy (E)	6-6	240	30	10	Jackson State
Goch, Dan (T)	6-4	240	29	6	California
Glover, Rich (T)	6-1	240	23	2	Nebraska
Tipton, Dave (E)	6-6	245	25	4	Stanford
Dvorak, Rick (E)	6-4	235	22	1	Wichita State

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

Hughes, Pat (O)	6-2	235	26	5	Boston University
Files, Jim (O-M)	6-4	240	26	5	Oklahoma
Hornsby, Ron (M)	6-3	232	24	4	S.E. Louisiana
Kelley, Brian (O)	6-3	222	23	2	Cal Lutheran
Van Pelt, Brad (O)	6-5	235	23	2	Michigan State
*Douglas, John (O)	6-2	228	29	5	Missouri

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

Athas, Pete	5-11	185	26	4	Tennessee
Williams, Willie	6-0	190	31	10	Grambling
Small, Eldridge	6-1	190	24	3	Texas A&I

SAFETIES

Crist, Chuck (S)	6-2	205	23	3	Penn State
Lockhart, Spider (W)	6-2	175	31	10	North Texas State
Powers, Clyde (S)	6-1	195	23	1	Oklahoma

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Snead might be the starter through attrition—Johnson's announced jump to the WFL in '75. On ability alone, they're close, but Randy could have won the job and still may, though now it's tougher. Hart and Summerell are strictly long-shots. PERF. QT.: 3.

Johnson, one of the NFL's best, is almost sure to gain 1,000 yards if he stays healthy. Evans might be the fullback for the same reason. Snead may win the quarterback job—Clements has defected. McQuay is an intriguing rookie (with two years in Canada) who will get plenty of playing time. Thompson has speed but is erratic. Davis, hurt as a rookie, could make it big. PERF. QT.: 3.

This is a strong position for the team, with Grim, Herrmann and Houston fighting for two wide receiver jobs and Tucker a bonafide All-Pro at tight end. Tucker has led the team in total receptions three years straight. Gatewood can fill in at all positions, while Clune is a solid-looking rookie with size and speed. If the regulars stay healthy, the subs won't play much. PERF. QT.: 2.

This unit has strength in numbers, but it is largely unsettled. Hicks, the No. 1 choice, is an instant starter. Enderle is consistent if unspectacular. Van Horn moved from guard to tackle last season and did well, but he's not a plus. Young might not be a starter again, falling to a strong charge by Hill. Hyland finally outlasted Greg Larson and takes over the center position. Mullen (No. 2 pick) might surprise Enderle. There is potential in Ellison, and he could join the guard battle. PERF. QT.: 3.

Gogolak is sometimes erratic, generally acceptable. Blanchard had some blocked last year, but kicks well. PERF. QT.: 3.

There's strength here. Gregory and Campbell have been outstanding, though not in the same seasons. Both are young enough to bloom, but Campbell has signed on with the WFL for '75. Mendenhall can be an All-Pro tackle, Jacobson has size and showed advancement last year. Reed can play end or linebacker. Goch is consistent, though not particularly outstanding. Hilton, from Baltimore, may have enough left to challenge for a starting spot. Glover seems miscast because of his size. Tipton has been a disappointment; he's now getting what should be a final chance to earn his keep. Dvorak will be tried at end and linebacker. PERF. QT.: 2.

Questions arise here because of shifting. Hornsby benched it last year, but is listed as a starter in the middle again. Files is back on the strong-side and may not be happy. Hughes graded out as the unit's top performer; he might become something with experience now working for him. Kelley looked good as a rookie. Van Pelt didn't. In both cases, the results were surprising. PERF. QT.: 3.

Athas is loose and reckless, but effective. Williams is both the veteran and the question mark; he may be slowing down. Small is a backup now, but could be a wide receiver, too. PERF. QT.: 3.

Lockhart, in his 10th year, must do better than in '73 or Athas will get a long-awaited shot. Crist seems capable of doing a job. Rookie Powers is a top prospect. PERF. QT.: 3.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



Donny Anderson high-steps through the Dallas defense.

The St. Louis Cards got a break last year. For a change, the Giants were worse. As a result, Don Coryell didn't finish last in his first NFL coaching season, edging out the hapless Giants for fourth, instead.

Sadly, all good things must end. St. Louis will be back at home in last place in the National Conference's Eastern Division in 1974.

It's not really a question of no talent. There is talent here. It's more a case of the other teams being better. Washington and Dallas are far ahead. Philadelphia could be, with its improved defense. And the Giants, an enigma to many, are feared by other players, if not their fans.

So where does that leave the Cards? Fifth, baby, fifth.

There are, however, a few critical areas which, if they improve, can cause the Cards to scare a lot of folks.

For instance, Coryell traded for a new running back duo, though at the moment it is a second-string tandem of fullback Ken Willard (from San Francisco) and halfback Cliff McClain (from the Jets). His starters are Donny Anderson and Terry Metcalf, the latter a super rookie last year, the former one-time Golden Palomino who didn't do much galloping in Green Bay, which had paid him \$600,000 to become a professional.

Jim Hart is the quarterback, a much-improved one as he turns 30. Hart

responded to Coryell's "let's pass them crazy" theories. Another new face is Dennis Shaw, who played for Coryell when both were at San Diego State, and who lost his job, subsequently, with the Buffalo Bills.

Gary Keithley, No. 2 quarterback last year, is No. 3 now, but will be kept because he's young, a strong thrower and a punter.

Wide receivers are Walker Gillette and Mel Gray, the former not really adequate, the latter a speed-burner with game-breaking tendencies. Ask the Giants. He's made a career of embarrassing them.

Gary Hammond is the wide receiving reserve with the most experience, since Ahmad Rashad (you knew him as Bobby Moore) was dispatched to the Bills for Shaw.

Jackie Smith is the tight end, though the veteran will feel the hot breath of No. 1 draft pick J. V. Cain, who should make veteran reserve Jim McFarland expendable.

The offensive line could be better. Wayne Mulligan should beat out Tom Brahaney for the center job. Dan Dierdorf and old Ernie McMillan are the tackles, though rookie Greg Kindle, the second draft choice, may push hard behind McMillan, a 36-year-old, 13-year veteran. Conrad Dobler and Tom Banks are the guards, with Roger Finnie supplying the primary reserve strength.

NFC East Prediction: Fifth

The defense was better last year, but seems to have reached a plateau. It won't significantly improve with the people it has.

Up front will be ends Dave Butz and Ron Yankowski and tackles John Richardson and Bob Rowe. Expect an intense effort by Bonnie Sloan and Leo Brooks to unseat Richardson. Jimmie Jones came from the Redskins as a fleet-footed end, used almost exclusively on sure-pass downs.

Jamie Rivers had lost his middle line-backing job to Mark Arneson and then was used to obtain McClain. Pete Barnes (weak-side) and Larry Stallings will flank Arneson. Barnes is one who might be vulnerable to a challenge, and Jeff Staggs, who has played better than his performance of recent years, could provide that competition. The reserves are of sub-par quality.

The secondary is strong when you talk about right cornerback Roger Wehrli and strong safety Jim Tolbert. But it isn't quite that assuring when left corner Norm Thompson and free safety Clarence Duren are considered. Duren was a rookie free agent last year who made it all the way to starter, and Thompson is a one-time first-round draft pick who has yet to prove St. Louis did the right thing. Here, too, quality reserves are questionable and a trade may be in the offing.

The offense is fairly sound, if quarterbacking doesn't become a problem. Anderson gained 679 yards, caught 41 passes for 409 more and led the conference with 13 TDs. Metcalf, until injured, gained 628 yards and added 37 receptions for 316 more.

Smith also had 41 catches, for 600 yards, and Gray's 29 receptions translated into 513 yards, a 17.7 average-per-catch and seven touchdowns.

Solid Jim Bakken is the placekicker (23 of 32 field goal tries) and Keithley is the punter, though the "shortest" in the conference with a 37.5-yard average.

Improvement should come, but not in large enough doses.

1973 RECORD (4-9-1)

34 Philadelphia	23	17 Denver	17
34 Washington	27	21 Green Bay	25
10 Dallas	45	13 New York Giants	24
10 Oakland	17	24 Cincinnati	42
24 Philadelphia	27	16 Detroit	20
13 Washington	31	32 Atlanta	10
35 New York Giants	27	3 Dallas	30

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	31	23	100
13	0	0	78
7	0	0	42
3	0	0	18
2	0	0	12
2	0	0	12

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
2	34	0	26	17.0
2	13	0	13	6.5

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
66	2478	55	37.5

SYMBOLS **—Traded
†—Conference leader
††—Tied for conference lead

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
167	679	10†	54	4.1
148	628	2	50	4.2
55	234	1	19	4.3
16	66	0	18	4.1

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
41	600	1	42	14.6
41	409	3	44	10.0
37	316	0	35	8.5
30	409	3	65	13.6
29	513	7	80	17.7

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
11	80	0	51	7.3
9	92	0	33	10.2

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
16	445	1††	97††	27.8
12	314	0	47	26.2

PASSING

Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
320	178	2223	69	15	10	55.6
73	32	369	80	1	5	43.8

OFFENSE

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
QUARTERBACKS					
Hart, Jim	6-1	215	30	9	So. Illinois
Shaw, Dennis	6-2	230	26	5	San Diego State
Keithley, Gary	6-3	205	23	2	Texas-El Paso
RUNNING BACKS					
Anderson, Donny	6-2	215	31	9	Texas Tech
Metcalf, Terry	5-10	185	22	2	Long Beach State
Willard, Ken	6-1	219	31	10	North Carolina
McClain, Cliff	6-0	212	26	5	South Carolina St.
Shy, Don	6-1	215	28	8	San Diego State
Otis, Jim	6-0	220	26	5	Ohio State
Belton, Willie	5-11	195	26	4	Md.-Eastern Shore
RECEIVERS					
Gillette, Walker (W)	6-5	200	27	5	Richmond
Gray, Mel (W)	5-9	175	25	4	Missouri
Smith, Jackie (T)	6-4	235	34	12	N.W. Louisiana
Hammond, Gary (W)	5-11	190	25	3	SMU
Cain, J. V. (T)	6-4	220	23	1	Colorado
McFarland, Jim (T)	6-5	225	26	5	Nebraska
Harris, Ike (W)	6-3	205	21	1	Iowa State
INTERIOR LINEMEN					
McMillan, Ernie (T)	6-5	275	36	14	Illinois
Dierdorf, Dan (T)	6-3	275	25	4	Michigan
Banks, Tom (G)	6-1	245	26	4	Auburn
Dobler, Conrad (G)	6-3	250	23	3	Wyoming
Mulligan, Wayne (C)	6-3	250	27	6	Clemson
Finnie, Roger (G)	6-3	245	28	6	Florida A&M
Reynolds, Bob (T)	6-5	265	35	12	Bowling Green
Braham, Tom (C)	6-2	225	22	2	Oklahoma
Kindle, Greg (T)	6-4	255	23	1	Tennessee State
KICKERS					
Bakken, Jim (Pk)	6-0	200	33	13	Wisconsin
Keithley, Gary (P)	6-3	205	23	2	Texas-El Paso
DEFENSE					
FRONT LINEMEN					
Butz, Dave (E)	6-7	280	24	2	Purdue
Yankowski, Ron (E)	6-5	240	27	4	Kansas State
Richardson, John (T)	6-3	245	29	8	UCLA
Rowe, Bob (T)	6-4	270	29	8	Western Michigan
Jones, Jimmie (E)	6-5	240	27	6	Wichita State
Brooks, Leo (T)	6-6	265	26	5	Texas
Sloan, Bonnie (T)	6-5	260	26	2	Austin Peay
George, Steve (T)	6-5	250	23	1	Houston
LINEBACKERS					
Stallings, Larry (O)	6-1	230	32	12	Georgia Tech
Barnes, Pete (O)	6-1	240	29	8	Southern
Arneson, Mark (M)	6-2	220	24	3	Arizona
Staggs, Jeff (O)	6-1	240	30	8	San Diego State
Neils, Steve (O)	6-2	210	23	1	Minnesota
LaVeck, Jack (M)	6-0	225	24	2	Ohio
CORNERBACKS					
Thompson, Norm	6-1	180	29	4	Utah
Wehrli, Roger	6-0	190	26	6	Missouri
Crump, Dwayne	5-11	180	24	2	Long Beach State
SAFETIES					
Tolbert, Jim (S)	6-4	200	30	8	Lincoln (Mo.)
Duren, Clarence (W)	6-1	190	23	2	California
Detweiler, Chuck (W)	6-0	185	27	5	Utah State

Performance Quotients

Hart had his best season but still must put together two satisfactory campaigns. Shaw is a potentially strong passer who played for Coach Coryell at San Diego State. Keithley is young. PERF. QT.: 3.

If Anderson can have another year like '73, and if Metcalf wasn't a one-shot rookie flash (and, also, if he's recovered from a leg injury), the Cards will have two good runners. And with the additions of Willard and McClain, the depth is outstanding and the first-stringers will be pushed hard. Shy, Otis and Belton are adequate at best, but their roles are not important. Metcalf has burning speed and a rosy future. PERF. QT.: 2.

Losing Ahmad Rashad (in the trade for Shaw) will hurt. Gillette is not a top man. Gray's speed is his best asset; his stature is a detriment. Smith has been outstanding but may be slowing up. Hammond and McFarland can be challenged. Cain will spend this year plotting to unseat Smith. Harris is versatile. Here's a potentially troublesome sign: Anderson and Metcalf ranked 1-2 in receiving leadership on the '73 squad. PERF. QT.: 3.

Dierdorf is a good one. Banks is quiet but steady. Dobler is still learning and may not learn enough. McMillan is a tiger but a 36-year-old one. Mulligan is sound, anonymous, a good pass-blocker. Finnie and Reynolds provide adequate bench strength. Braham may be too small. Kindle is an intriguing rookie but raw and at least a season away. This area could be the undoing of the offense; run-blocking wasn't good last year and many of the Anderson and Metcalf gains were self-made. If McMillan gives up in his fight with the calendar, a real vacancy will be created. PERF. QT.: 3.

Bakken is one of the old-timers, and still steady. He made 23 of 32 field goals. Keithley is adequate. PERF. QT.: 3.

Butz was a revelation as rookie No. 1 draft pick; he showed strength, agility and uncommon poise. Yankowski could be better. Richardson and Rowe are old hands, with Rowe the superior performer. Jones, acquired from the Redskins, will help on sure-passing downs. Sloan made a great impression as a rookie. Brooks has good size, strength. George might be a sleeper. Overall, the front line could be better, but it has been worse and that is Coryell's only consideration at this juncture. PERF. QT.: 4.

Stallings carries this unit, blending experience, ability and quickness. Arneson wasn't bad; he should show improvement now that the job is clearly his. Barnes is the weak link here, and he may have to battle Staggs for the post. Neils, scouts reported, has fine reactions and is a strong tackler. He figures to put on poundage. LaVeck is small, inexperienced. PERF. QT.: 3.

Thompson was steadier last year than in previous seasons, but won't be a Pro Bowler this time, either. Wehrli will, since he's one of the best in the conference. Crump is adequate. PERF. QT.: 3.

Duren was a free agent rookie last year who stuck and started. But he regressed as the season wore on. Tolbert is strong and a hard tackler. Detweiler could bench Duren. PERF. QT.: 3.



MINNESOTA VIKINGS



Fran Tarkenton starts a play; John Ward leads the blocking.

For guys like Fran Tarkenton, Grady Alderman, Paul Krause, Jim Marshall, Mick Tingelhoff, Bill Brown and other older Vikings, last season was one game short of the long quest.

The Vikings got to the Super Bowl. Unfortunately, so did the Miami Dolphins, so now it's back to the drawing board in Minnesota.

This season could well produce another Super Bowl appearance, but if it doesn't many of those veteran players will have to pack it in anyway, and they'd much prefer to go out while being measured for a championship ring.

This is Tarkenton's team, and he got it to work his way in '73. He won't throw deep unless the defense he's facing allows him to. He won't throw at all if his runners are hitting the holes. And when he has decided to throw, he is still likely to tuck the ball under his arm and do his scramble number around end.

Francis threw judiciously last year. He was also brilliant in providing leadership, constancy and drive to the talented Vikings.

He was also fortunate that the team chose to draft Chuck Foreman on the first round, for this 6-2, 216-pound half-back was a lot of folks' Rookie of the Year, gaining 801 yards in 182 carries even though he skipped two games with minor leg ailments.

Foreman will team with strong Oscar Reed in the backfield, and Francis, of

course, will be at quarterback, backed up by journeyman Bob Berry, unless taxi-squadder Mike Wells can move up to second-string.

There is running back depth, in such as Brown, Ed Marinaro, Dave Osborn and Brent McClanahan, the latter also a fiery kickoff returner.

Wide receivers start with John Giliam, 42 catches for 907 yards and eight TDs. But there will be a new face guaranteed on the other side, since old Carroll Dale is gone. The job will probably go to Jim Lash, a rookie last year, but he'll face a challenge from Rhett Dawson and second-round draft pick John Holland.

Stu Voigt will probably edge Doug Kingsriter for the tight end spot, but both will play.

Inside, everything's cool if it doesn't age too quickly.

Alderman and Ron Yary are the tackles, the former 35 years old and the last original Viking, the latter an All-Pro, 6-5 and 255 pounds. Milt Sunde, Ed White and John Ward will battle for two guard positions, with White winning one and Ward, if healthy, figuring to bench the veteran Sunde. Tingelhoff will face a threat at center from young Godfrey Zaunbrecher, but the team will be the winner of this competition.

What's even nicer is the defense.

Up front, opposing offenses must find a way to solve the problem posed by Carl

NFC Central Prediction: First

Eller and Alan Page, two All-Pros from a long time ago. But there is no real solution, and having Marshall and either Gary Larsen or Bob Lurtsema filling out the line doesn't help matters any. If Marshall starts to slow (he's 36), young Doug Sutherland will be ready to play.

Jeff Siemon, a two-year veteran, started for the first time last year. So he's one-for-one, since he made the Pro Bowl. Flanking him will be violent Wally Hilgenberg and clever Roy Winston, with youngsters like Amos Martin and rookies Matt Blair and Fred McNeill pushing hard.

The secondary received a jolt before last season began when strong safety Karl Kassulke was tragically injured and paralyzed in a motorcycle accident. But young Jeff Wright filled in and performed admirably. He no doubt benefited from playing alongside sometimes-All-Pro free safety Paul Krause, and the cornerbacks did nicely, too.

Bobby Bryant led the NFC in interceptions, seven, and Nate Wright won the competition from Charlie West on the left side. Now they go in as the starters, with West trying again now that a two-year knee injury has mended.

But the Vikings are vulnerable at cornerback, and it is the one area on the team not sufficiently protected by reserves. Al Randolph and Terry Brown are the first safety subs, and Jackie Wallace, an inactive rookie in '73, and freshman Jim Ferguson could work into contending status at any of the four spots.

The punting is handled by Mike Eischeid, who happens to be a fine golfer (low 70s). This year, he'll be asked to switch from a driver to a seven-iron, trying for the corners rather than booming them, and he has shown the ability to "chip" as well as tee off.

Fred Cox is one of the most consistent field goal specialists, but even his steadiness will be diminished by the new rules, which will hold down his number of attempts.

1973 RECORD (14-3)

24 Oakland	16	31 Chicago	13
22 Chicago	13	0 Cincinnati	27
11 Green Bay	3	31 Green Bay	7
23 Detroit	9	31 New York Giants	7
17 San Francisco	13	(Playoff)	
28 Philadelphia	21	27 Washington	20
10 Los Angeles	9	(NFC Championship)	
26 Cleveland	3	27 Dallas	10
28 Detroit	7	(Super Bowl)	
14 Atlanta	20	7 Miami	24

SYMBOL †—Conference leader

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	33	21	96
9	0	0	54
6	0	0	36
4	0	0	24
4	0	0	24

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
7†	105	1	46	15.0
4	28	0	24	7.0
3	31	0	25	10.3
3	6	0	6	2.0
2	24	0	21	12.0

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
182	801	4	50	4.4
100	401	3	30	4.0
95	302	2	27	3.2
48	216	0	14	4.5
47	206	3	21	4.4
41	202	1	16	4.9

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
66	2628	57	39.8

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
25	140	0	16	5.6

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
42	907	8	54	21.6
37	362	2	35	9.8
26	196	2	17	7.5
23	318	2	43	13.8
19	122	0	13	6.4

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
16	410	0	45	25.6
10	174	0	29	17.4

PASSING

Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct.
274	169	2113	54	15	7	61.7
24	10	121	30	1	2	41.7

OFFENSE

Age Exp College

QUARTERBACKS

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-0	190	34	14	Georgia
5-11	185	32	10	Oregon
6-5	225	23	1	Illinois

RUNNING BACKS

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-2	216	24	2	Miami (Fla.)
6-0	222	30	7	Colorado State
6-2	212	24	3	Cornell
6-0	208	31	10	North Dakota
5-11	222	36	14	Illinois
5-10	202	23	2	Arizona State

RECEIVERS

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-1	195	29	8	South Carolina St.
6-2	199	23	2	Northwestern
6-1	225	26	5	Wisconsin
6-1	182	25	3	Florida State
6-2	222	24	2	Minnesota
6-0	191	22	1	Tennessee State
6-4	225	23	1	Northwestern

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-5	255	28	7	Southern California
6-2	247	35	15	Detroit
6-4	260	26	5	Oklahoma State
6-2	262	26	6	California
6-2	237	34	13	Nebraska
6-2	250	32	11	Minnesota
6-2	240	26	4	LSU
6-3	256	24	2	Florida A&M
6-5	255	22	1	Southern California

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
5-10	200	35	12	Pittsburgh
6-0	190	32	8	Upper Iowa

(PK)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-6	247	32	11	Minnesota
6-4	240	36	15	Ohio State
6-4	245	29	8	Notre Dame
6-5	255	34	11	Concordia
6-6	255	32	8	Western Michigan
6-3	250	26	5	Wisc. St.-Superior

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-3	229	32	11	Iowa
5-11	222	34	13	LSU
6-2	230	24	3	Stanford
6-3	228	25	3	Louisville
6-2	223	23	1	UCLA
6-5	229	23	1	Iowa State

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
6-1	170	30	7	South Carolina
5-11	180	27	6	San Diego State
6-1	197	27	7	Texas-El Paso
6-2	188	22	1	Arizona
6-1	184	22	1	Stanford

SAFETIES

Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
5-11	190	25	4	Minnesota
6-3	200	32	11	Iowa
6-2	205	27	5	Oklahoma State
6-2	205	30	8	Iowa

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Tarkenton enjoyed his most satisfying season and did nicely statistically, too. Berry is a backup who has experience, Wells is one who doesn't. PERF. QT.: 2.

Foreman had a sensational rookie year. Reed blossomed as a hard up-the-middle runner. Marinaro lacks real speed. Osborn and Brown are the old vets and often work best in tandem. There is some doubt whether Brown, at 36, can still play effectively, and other doubts involve Marinaro's overall future. McClanahan has speed but needs to learn much. PERF. QT.: 2.

Gilliam has speed, size, ability to be a game-breaker, and his 1975 WFL contract shouldn't influence his '74 contribution. Lash spent last year learning, as did Dawson. With rookie Holland they are in the free-for-all for the other wide receiver position. The youngster has blinding speed. Voigt is strong as a blocker, adequate as a receiver. Kingsriter has more speed but less savvy. Craig isn't counted on for '74, but he is for the future. PERF. QT.: 3.

Yary is as good as any tackle in football. Sunde may lose his job to a healthy Ward. Alderman and White are solid performers. Sunde, Alderman and Tingelhoff are nearing the end of their careers but play with a practiced skill that makes for good unit cohesion. Zaunbrecher can play if Tingelhoff can't. Young Riley is considered a steal. Any problems here will center on the age factor of some of the starters, but the high level of reserves should make any changes relatively painless. Goodrum played a bit in '73. He's another of Coach Grant's talented young prospects. PERF. QT.: 2.

Few kickers are more reliable than Cox, who is accurate from close and far. Eischeid is only an adequate punter. PERF. QT.: 2.

Eller and Page are considered the best at their positions; Page may be the best defensive lineman ever. Marshall could begin to feel his age and that's something of a problem, for depth is thin. Larsen is slow but acts as the line's "cop" and doesn't need super speed. Lurtsema is versatile and has a killer instinct. Sutherland could see more action if Marshall slows down. PERF. QT.: 2.

Nothing is wrong with Hilgenberg's hitting and tackling, but he might be a step slower on pass defense than is acceptable. Winston is a competent, if aging, performer. Siemon was a star in his second season (first as a starter) and should be at top form for years. Martin is well thought of. McNeill and Blair, both solid drafts, could find themselves on the field often. PERF. QT.: 2.

Bryant led the NFC in interceptions but he really isn't that good. Wright is quicker; he needs more pressure-playing time. West used to be a starter until a knee injury slowed him. Wallace (a rookie last year who never played) has some potential but not an overabundance of it. Ferguson has a chance. PERF. QT.: 3.

Krause is a solid, entrenched factor here, the glue of the secondary. Wright surprised many teams with his dependability but loses points on man-to-man coverage. He's a strong tackler, however. Brown and Randolph are fine insurance. PERF. QT.: 3.



DETROIT LIONS



Greg Landry hustles to stay away from Jim Marshall.

Can the Detroit Lions win their Central Division championship? Yes, they certainly can.

Will they? No, certainly not if they have injuries at anywhere near the record pace of last season.

So going into the '74 campaign, Coach Don McCafferty has to feel much like a man about to split the world's most expensive diamond: Everything will be all right if nothing moves, falls, crumbles or slips.

Big Don is confident. "We can make a run for the title," he says, "because it is inconceivable that any team can be hit two years in a row with the number of key injuries we had. There wasn't a team in the league that lost as many men, most of them starters, as we did. Injuries were definitely the major factor in our 6-7-1 season."

Perhaps another factor was the continued failure to beat the Vikings. The Detroit losing streak is up to 12 now—two a year for the last six years. And the Lions won't win a thing if they can't fix that.

McCafferty has set up some competition at quarterback this year, a real scrap between Greg Landry and Bill Munson. Landry, the incumbent, tore up a knee at mid-season, bringing the veteran Munson into the top job. He did well, as Landry had done prior to getting hurt, and both now want to start.

The running backs will be Altie Taylor

and Steve Owens, both of whom played well despite injuries. Mickey Zofko, Leon Crosswhite and an interesting contingent of well-thought-of rookies fight for the remaining spots.

Larry Walton and Ron Jessie are the wide receivers who figure to start, though Earl McCulloch and Al Barnes are capable of doing the same. Jessie is ticketed for the WFL in 1975, though McCafferty vows that won't prevent him from starting this season if he deserves it.

Charlie Sanders is the tight end, and if he's healthy he could be the league's best at the position.

The interior blocking unit is sound. Again, however, the proviso is that its members remain healthy.

The tackles are Jim Yarbrough and Rocky Freitas, the guards Bob Kowalkowski and either Rocky Rasley or Chuck Walton, the center Ed Flanagan. Yarbrough and Walton missed a total of 53 quarters in '73, and Rasley and Flanagan have signed WFL contracts for the future.

The defense, perhaps even more than the offense, was racked by injuries.

Two regulars in the secondary—Rudy Redmond and Wayne Rasmussen—were lost for the entire schedule. Yet because of that, rookies Dick Jauron (free safety in place of Rasmussen) and Levi Johnson (right cornerback for Redmond) both came out of the season experienced veterans.

NFC Central Prediction: Second

Lem Barney is an All-Pro on the left corner, while Mike Weger figures to retain his strong-side safety status. There will, however, be competition elsewhere. Doug Wyatt and rookie Carl Capria seem the best of the other reserves.

The most significant player loss was that of middle linebacker Mike Lucci—whose farewell was accompanied by some angry words directed at McCafferty. Still, Lion-watchers say Lucci was somewhat overrated last season and might, indeed, not be sorely missed.

His replacement is Jim Laslavic, a second-year player who started five games when Lucci came up lame.

At the moment, Paul Naumoff and Charlie Weaver are slated to open as the outside linebackers, but somebody is going to have to tell Ed O'Neil, the No. 1 draft choice, that he's not starting. The 6-2, 235-pounder from Penn State might force some rethinking in this area.

Up front, the ends will be Ken Sanders and Larry Hand, unless Jim Mitchell decides to play well again and sends Sanders to the bench. The tackles are Herb Orvis and Bob Bell, but Bell had better be careful because rookie Billy Howard and soph Ernie Price are job-hunting.

Orvis, starting his third year, was the team's best defensive lineman and seems in no danger of losing his position.

Jauron and Johnson should keep their jobs, which gives the Lions great depth in the secondary; indeed, valuable trading material. With another outstanding linebacker and some help on the offensive line, this team could finally get over its Viking jinx and take deliberate aim on the Central Division championship.

Munson? Or Landry? There's the rub. Both do things well—but different things. Landry is a runner who can pass, Munson a proved passer who prefers the aerial to the scramble.

If McCafferty makes the right choice, and if the injuries find another team to haunt this season, it could be a strong showing in Detroit.

1973 RECORD (6-7-1)

10 Pittsburgh	24	30 San Francisco	20
13 Green Bay	13	7 Minnesota	28
31 Atlanta	6	30 Chicago	7
9 Minnesota	23	0 Washington	20
13 New Orleans	20	20 St. Louis	16
27 Baltimore	29	40 Chicago	7
34 Green Bay	0	7 Miami	34

SYMBOLS *—Retired
†—Conference leader

PASSING							
Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct	
Munson	187	95	1129	54	9	50.8	
Landry	128	70	908	84†	3	54.7	

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS						
Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College		
Landry, Greg	6-4	210	27	7	Massachusetts	
Munson, Bill	6-2	210	33	11	Utah State	
Cappleman, Bill	6-3	210	27	3	Florida State	
RUNNING BACKS						
Owens, Steve	6-2	215	26	5	Oklahoma	
Taylor, Albie	5-10	200	26	6	Utah State	
Crosswhite, Leon	6-2	215	23	2	Oklahoma	
Zofko, Mickey	6-1	195	25	4	Auburn	
Bussey, Dexter	6-1	195	22	1	Texas-Arlington	
Burden, Willie	5-11	200	22	1	North Carolina St.	
RECEIVERS						
*Jessie, Ron (W)	6-0	183	26	4	Kansas	
Walton, Larry (W)	6-0	185	27	6	Arizona State	
Sanders, Charlie (T)	6-4	225	28	7	Minnesota	
McCullough, Earl (W)	5-11	185	28	7	Southern California	
*Barnes, Al (W)	6-1	170	25	4	New Mexico State	
Brady, John (T)	6-3	215	23	1	Washington	
(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End						
INTERIOR LINEMEN						
Yarbrough, Jim (T)	6-5	265	27	6	Florida	
Freitas, Rocky (T)	6-6	270	28	7	Oregon State	
*Rasley, Rocky (G)	6-3	255	27	5	Oregon State	
Kowalkowski, Bob (G)	6-3	240	30	9	Virginia	
*Flanagan, Ed (C)	6-3	245	30	10	Purdue	
Walton, Chuck (G)	6-3	255	33	8	Iowa State	
Jolley, Gordon (T)	6-5	250	25	3	Utah	
Evans, Mike (C)	6-5	250	28	7	Boston College	
Davis, Jimmie (G)	6-5	235	22	1	Alcorn A&M	
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center						
KICKERS						
Mann, Errol (Pk)	6-0	200	33	7	North Dakota	
Weaver, Herman (P)	6-4	210	25	5	Tennessee	
(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter						
DEFENSE						
FRONT LINEMEN						
Sanders, Ken (E)	6-5	240	25	3	Howard Payne	
Hand, Larry (E)	6-4	250	34	10	Appalachian St.	
Orvis, Herb (T)	6-5	240	27	3	Colorado	
Bell, Bob (T)	6-4	250	26	4	Cincinnati	
Mitchell, Jim (E)	6-3	245	25	5	Virginia State	
Price, Ernie (T)	6-4	255	23	2	Texas A&I	
Small, John (T)	6-4	260	27	5	Citadel	
Howard, Billy (T)	6-4	245	23	1	Alcorn A&M	
(E)—End (T)—Tackle						
LINEBACKERS						
Naumoff, Paul (O)	6-1	215	29	8	Tennessee	
Weaver, Charlie (O)	6-2	218	25	4	Southern California	
Laslavic, Jim (M)	6-2	230	22	2	Penn State	
O'Neil, Ed (O)	6-2	235	21	1	Penn State	
Hennigan, Mike (O)	6-2	210	22	2	Tennessee Tech	
Denimarck, Mike (M)	6-2	225	23	1	Emporia	
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker						
CORNERBACKS						
Barney, Lem	6-0	188	28	8	Jackson State	
Johnson, Levi	6-3	190	23	2	Texas A&I	
Redmond, Rudy	6-1	190	27	5	Pacific	
Thrower, Jim	6-2	195	25	5	East Texas State	
SAFETIES						
Weger, Mike (S)	6-2	200	28	8	Bowling Green	
Jauron, Dick (W)	6-0	190	23	2	Yale	
Wyatt, Doug (W)	6-1	195	27	5	Tulsa	
Capria, Carl (S)	6-3	185	21	1	Purdue	
(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety						

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	14	13	53
0	14	8	38
5	0	0	30
5	0	0	30
4	0	0	24
4	0	0	24

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
5	82	0	38	16.4
4	208†	1	95†	52.0
4	130	0	38	32.5
4	50	0	21	12.5

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
176	719	5	34	4.1
113	401	3	16	3.5
97	373	4	32	3.8
42	267	2	18	6.4

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
54	2333	66	43.2

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
27	231	0	42	8.6
6	49	0	16	8.2

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
28	433	2	54	15.5
27	252	0	35	9.3
26	183	0	27	7.0
24	232	0	30	9.7
21	302	4	49	14.4
20	364	3	84†	18.2

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
17	405	0	33	23.8
12	295	0	60	24.6

Performance Quotients

Landry is probably the man if he's healthy. He missed seven '73 games with knee problems. Munson then would become a capable (and unhappy) reserve. Cappleman barely misses. PERF. QT.: 2.

Owens and Taylor also fell victim to knee injuries; they missed a few games and weren't at full strength in several others. Taylor had 719 yards and Owens 401, nevertheless. Crosswhite and Zofko seem no more than reserves, though the former showed some strong moves. Rookies Bussey and Burden are well thought of. Their best hopes are to rise to second-string status. PERF. QT.: 2.

There shouldn't be problems here, but there are. Jessie, the fleet wide man, has indicated his preference for the WFL. Walton has never realized his potential. Sanders might be the NFL's top tight end if he stays well. McCullough should do more, but seldom does. Barnes filled in nicely when injuries struck. Taxi-squadder Brady provides needed tight end depth. PERF. QT.: 3.

Yarbrough and Freitas are gargantuan tackles who have improved each year. Rasley and Kowalkowski are starters for now, but Rasley might find competition from Walton. Flanagan (another WFL'er, as is Rasley) is still a complete center with experience and size. Jolley is looked upon as a starter in the near future. Evans, a veteran from the Eagles, can be helpful in a backup situation. Davis is the rookie the Lions like, but he has to be a year away from being a factor. Walton missed 10 games with injury (ergo, Rasley started) and Yarbrough was injured for four games. PERF. QT.: 3.

There may be some concern with Mann, but he only got 19 field goal chances (and made 13). Weaver is outstanding. PERF. QT.: 3.

Sanders and Hand handled the end positions and did well, though Sanders had to do it in a hurry as a second-year man with little experience. Hand showed no signs of slowing, despite his age. Orvis, another second-year player, was voted defensive MVP on the team. Bell played regularly but will find some competition from Price, who is extremely quick. Mitchell lost his job to Sanders but could regain it. Howard is a big, quick, promising rookie who may be a bit raw now. Small's leg injuries have jeopardized his career. PERF. QT.: 3.

Middle linebacker Mike Lucci has retired, giving the job to second-year man Laslavic, who started five games last year. Weaver and Naumoff were solid, Weaver in his first full-time year. Naumoff is an established veteran. O'Neil, the top draft pick, was ranked by many as the nation's best college linebacker and could push Weaver. Hennigan and Denimarck are bench-sitters. PERF. QT.: 3.

Redmond missed the full season, giving his job to rookie Johnson, who led the team with five interceptions. Barney is a quality performer, usually a Pro Bowl player. Thrower might have trouble making the squad if Redmond is healthy. PERF. QT.: 2.

Ivy League rookie Jauron came on to take injured Wayne Rasmusen's spot. The youngster intercepted four passes and seems to have sewed up the job. Weger is steady and experienced. Capria is a well thought of yearling. PERF. QT.: 3.

GREEN BAY PACKERS



Gale Gillingham, 68, starts to block; Jerry Tagge turns to hand off.

Three quarterbacks, and nary a starter among them.

That, precisely and succinctly, is the problem Dan Devine faces this year as general manager and head coach of the Green Bay Packers. It remains a problem that he must solve—make that *must* solve—for it has been said that his job is on the line this time.

The three men involved are Jerry Tagge, Jim Del Gaizo and Scott Hunter. They are young. They are relatively inexperienced. They have all been presented with the Packers' starting quarterback job and each has found a way to cause Devine to take it back again.

Indeed, you may have any two of them for one experienced, older quarterback, which would enable Devine to school the survivor while a man who knows what he's doing takes the Packers to the playoffs.

And, in all likelihood, a competent quarterback could take the Packers to the playoffs. Because almost everywhere else, with a few not necessarily major exceptions, Green Bay is sound, solid, deep and tough.

Take the running backs, for instance. There is John Brockington, a very special kind of runner who has been in the NFL for three years and who has three years of 1,000 yards or more to his credit. Last year he was the NFC's leader with 1,144 yards. He's 6-1 and 230. With speed.

He also comes equipped with a running mate named MacArthur Lane, who is 6-1 and 220 and who gained 528 yards in 1973. And there is a gargantuan rookie fullback from Richmond, No. 1 draft pick Barty Smith, who's 6-3 and 235, plus some quality subs. Smith, however, hurt a knee in a summer game and may be of no value to the team this year.

Clearly, Devine doesn't need runners. Indeed, he may unload some.

The Pack's receivers can be good, if a quarterback is found who can get the ball to them. One is Jon Staggers, 5-10 and 180 with a burst of speed like Rose Mary Woods running for her eraser. The other will probably be Barry Smith, a rookie last year who showed great promise. Fifth-round pick Steve Odom is a nice-looking prospect. Rich McGeorge is 6-4, 230 and a good tight end.

The line contains Gale Gillingham, an All-Pro guard, and a collection of big, tough, talented kids. Veteran center Ken Bowman anchors the group, which should be filled out with Bill Lueck at the other guard, Bill Hayhoe and Dick Himes at tackles.

Defense, usually a Packer trademark, is capable of doing wild things.

Up front Devine can turn to Mike McCoy (6-5 and close to 300 pounds) and Bob Brown (6-5 and 280) as his tackles, with Clarence Williams and Alden Roche at the ends. Carleton Oats, Aaron Brown and Dave Pureifory seem to be the

NFC Central Prediction: Third

reserves, though Oats and Brown can be and have been starters before and young Pureifory could push Williams.

Middle linebacker Jim Carter is well on his way to becoming a new assassin in the mold of Dick Butkus and Willie Lanier. He's 6-3 and 245, with just enough pursuit speed to place a small knot of fear in the stomach of even the most courageous running back. He'll be flanked by Fred Carr and Tom MacLeod. Carr is 6-5 and 240. MacLeod, a violent rookie in '73, is the "smallest" of the three at 6-3 and 225.

Tom Toner, Larry Hefner and Noel Jenke are the reserves here, though Hefner started at times last season when injuries struck.

Nor does the secondary pale by comparison with either of the other two defensive areas.

Willie Buchanon and Ken Ellis are the starting cornerbacks, both young and quick and blessed with a mean streak that shakes up any receivers who have the temerity to catch passes. Jim Hill and Al Matthews are the safeties, both of them fleet and arrogant. In all, the secondary has every one of the necessary requirements for excellence—youth but experience, speed and size.

Such as Ike Thomas (he's also a reserve wide receiver), Hise Austin and Charlie Hall should supply the reserves here.

Two years ago, the Packers were 10-4 with Hunter, then a rookie, handling the quarterbacking chores. He didn't pass often, but when he did it worked. Hunter fell apart last season, losing his job to Del Gaizo, who was obtained at great cost from Miami, and then Del Gaizo gave it up to Tagge.

With Brockington and Lane running the ball . . . with a potentially great defense . . . with depth in most areas . . . the Packers could be in a position to win. Right now. But if one of the three young quarterbacks can't do it, there will be no recourse other than to trade. And who among the league's general managers would care to give Green Bay a championship?

1973 RECORD (5-7-2)

23 New York Jets	7	17 Chicago	31
13 Detroit	13	25 St. Louis	21
3 Minnesota	11	24 New England	33
16 New York Giants	14	6 San Francisco	20
10 Kansas City	10	30 New Orleans	10
7 Los Angeles	24	7 Minnesota	31
0 Detroit	34	21 Chicago	0

SYMBOL †—Conference leader

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	19	21	82
4	0	0	24
3	0	0	18
2	0	0	12
2	0	0	12
2	0	0	12

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
3	53	1	47	17.7
3	53	0	20	17.7
3	44	1	42	14.7
2	58	1	58	29.0
2	8	0	8	4.0

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
265	1144	3	53	4.3
170	528	1	20	3.1
18	88	1	19	4.9
32	87	1	9	2.7

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
56	2414	60	43.1

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
19	90	0	26	4.7
11	47	0	23	4.3

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
27	255	1	30	9.4
25	412	3	50	16.5
16	260	1	44	16.3
16	128	0	37	8.0
15	233	2	24	15.5

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
23	527	0	34	22.9
12	319	0	84	26.6
11	244	0	30	22.2

PASSING

Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
106	56	720	50	2	7	52.8
84	35	442	30	2	4	41.7
62	27	318	28	2	6	43.5

OFFENSE

Performance Quotients

HT	WT	Age	Exp	College
QUARTERBACKS				
Tagge, Jerry	6-2	215	24	3 Nebraska
Del Gaizo, Jim	6-1	198	27	3 Tampa
Hunter, Scott	6-2	210	25	4 Alabama
RUNNING BACKS				
Brockington, John	6-1	230	25	4 Ohio State
Lane, MacArthur	6-1	220	32	7 Utah State
*Williams, Perry	6-2	225	27	6 Purdue
Smith, Barty	6-3	235	23	1 Richmond
Woods, Don	6-1	191	23	1 New Mexico
Krause, Larry	6-0	208	26	5 St. Norbert
Goodman, Les	5-11	206	24	2 Yankton (S.D.)
RECEIVERS				
Staggers, Jon (W)	5-10	180	25	5 Missouri
Smith, Barry (W)	6-1	190	23	2 Florida State
McGeorge, Rich (T)	6-4	230	25	5 Elon
Glass, Leland (W)	6-0	185	24	3 Oregon
Thomas, Ike (W)	6-2	195	26	3 Bishop
Donohue, Mike (T)	6-3	230	29	5 San Francisco
Odom, Steve (W)	6-2	192	22	1 Utah
(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End				
INTERIOR LINEMEN				
Himes, Dick (T)	6-4	260	28	7 Ohio State
Hayhoe, Bill (T)	6-8	260	28	6 Southern California
Gillingham, Gale (G)	6-3	265	30	9 Minnesota
Lueck, Bill (G)	6-4	250	28	7 Arizona
Bowman, Ken (C)	6-3	245	30	11 Wisconsin
Snider, Mal (T)	6-4	250	27	6 Stanford
Withrow, Cal (C)	6-0	230	29	5 Kentucky
Wortman, Keith (G)	6-2	250	24	3 Nebraska
Branstetter, Kent (G)	6-3	260	25	2 Houston
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center				
KICKERS				
Marcol, Chester (Pk)	6-0	190	25	3 Hillsdale
Widby, Ron (P)	6-4	220	29	7 Tennessee
(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter				
DEFENSE				
FRONT LINEMEN				
Roche, Alden (E)	6-4	255	28	5 Southern
Williams, Clarence (E)	6-5	255	27	5 Prairie View
McCoy, Mike (T)	6-5	285	25	5 Notre Dame
Brown, Bob (T)	6-5	280	34	9 Arkansas AM&N
Brown, Aaron (E)	6-5	270	30	8 Minnesota
Oats, Carleton (T)	6-3	260	31	10 Florida A&M
Pureifory, Dave (E)	6-1	250	24	3 Eastern Michigan
(E)—End (T)—Tackle				
LINEBACKERS				
Carr, Fred (O)	6-5	240	28	7 Texas-El Paso
MacLeod, Tom (O)	6-3	225	23	2 Minnesota
Carter, Jim (M)	6-3	245	26	5 Minnesota
Hefner, Larry (O-M)	6-2	230	25	3 Clemson
Jenke, Noel (M)	6-1	225	27	4 Minnesota
Toner, Tom (O)	6-3	235	24	2 Idaho State
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker				
CORNERBACKS				
Buchanan, Willie	6-0	190	23	3 San Diego State
Ellis, Ken	5-10	195	26	5 Southern
Austin, Hise	6-4	195	23	2 Prairie View
Smith, Perry	6-1	195	23	2 Colorado State
SAFETIES				
Matthews, Al (S)	5-11	190	26	5 Texas A&I
Hill, Jim (W)	6-2	195	27	6 Texas A&I
Hall, Charlie (W)	6-1	190	26	4 Pittsburgh
(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety				

Tagge won the job at the end of the year—by elimination. He still has far to go. Lefty Del Gaizo and Hunter had it, but couldn't hold it. All are young, erratic. PERF. QT.: 5.

Brockington, the best NFC fullback, has gone over 1,000 yards in each of his three seasons; he is strong, deceptively fast, a solid blocker and sure receiver. Lane is almost as big, almost as devastating. They are a fine, rugged combination. Williams has size, speed. Smith is a huge rookie with high grades whose summer knee injury will hurt, and freshman Woods is well thought of. Krause and Goodman will have to hustle to stick with this unit. PERF. QT.: 1.

Staggers has excellent speed and moves, but he's sometimes an erratic catcher. Smith has great potential and played well as a rookie last year. McGeorge could be one of top tight ends with a passing quarterback. Glass used to start but ultimately lost out to Smith. Thomas, more of a utility player, is also listed as a defensive back. Donohue figures to win the backup spot behind McGeorge. Odom comes with high scouting reports. PERF. QT.: 3.

Gillingham is an All-Pro; he finally came back from a '72 knee injury to star again. Lueck finally started to deliver on his promise in his sixth year. Himes and Hayhoe have size and agility but lack some consistency. Bowman, a veteran, is a qualified center. Snider could win a job—perhaps Hayhoe's—and he also has been known to back up at center and guard. Withrow showed some ability but lacks size. Wortman, a slow developer, might surprise people; he has the tools and could eventually win himself a job. Branstetter is a promising youngster who could make a name for himself. PERF. QT.: 3.

Marcol, Rookie of the Year in 1972, fell off in production in '73 but is a good one. Widby is adequate. PERF. QT.: 3.

Roche and Williams are killer ends and use size, speed, strength and agility to maximum levels. McCoy is the brute inside, flirting with the 300-pound mark but fairly agile. Bob Brown is a talented veteran who could find himself in the Pro Bowl. Aaron Brown filled in well when called upon but might have started losing his quickness. Oats is a very mobile sub. Pureifory has been on the bench two years and may push for a job. PERF. QT.: 2.

This is another solid area. Carter is on his way to All-Pro status; he has exceptional size and toughness and now has experience. Carr, accustomed to Pro Bowl honors, possesses size, speed and savvy. MacLeod astonished coaches with his rookie performance, though he was hurt late in the season. Hefner, Jenke and Toner seem to be dependable reserves. PERF. QT.: 2.

Buchanan and Ellis were a dynamic pair in '72. They played superbly last year but Buchanan was hurt and saw action in only six games. Austin has potential (he has fine size, speed) and Smith is another youngster who can contribute. PERF. QT.: 1.

Matthews is a sure tackler with good instincts for the ball. Hill is the glue that holds this unit together. Hall has ability and wide receiver Thomas helps here, too. PERF. QT.: 2.

CHICAGO BEARS



Carl Garrett led the Bears' rushing attack with 655 yards.

If Green Bay has a quarterback problem, it is one felt perhaps even more acutely in Chicago. The Bears have Bobby Douglass, who is a fine runner. And they have young Gary Huff, who isn't a fine anything yet. And that's the end of that.

The Bears were dead last in net yards gained passing in the NFC, and ranked at the top of the dishonor roll in allowing their quarterbacks to be sacked—that happened 49 times for 395 yards. But it wasn't all the fault of the none-too-good offensive line. Douglass' running tendencies often took him out of the protective pocket.

But he's a hell of a runner. Two years ago he set a quarterback rushing record of 968 yards. Last year he gained 525. But as a passer he had only 81 completions for 1,057 yards and five TDs, giving his wide receivers cause to grumble and think of other places to play.

Running, indeed, seems to be the Chicago strong point. There is little Carl Garrett (655 yards) and big Jim Harrison (370), and behind them are such as Joe Moore and Douglass himself.

Receivers, though in Chicago they don't really perform that task, include Earl Thomas, George Farmer, Tom Reynolds and Craig Cotton. Thomas was the team's leader—with 24 catches. Farmer and Cotton (the tight end), caught 15 and 13, respectively.

Wayne Wheeler was the highest-

drafted offensive player, the team's first selection on the third round. He is a wide receiver out of Alabama with super speed and good (6-2, 185) size. But even he can't catch unthrown footballs.

The offensive line is questionable, especially considering that it is handicapped by Douglass' unorthodox approach to the game. Tackles figure to be Randy Jackson and Bob Asher, though Lionel Antoine can make Jackson sit down simply by bringing his 6-6, 255-pound body into camp in some semblance of health. Glen Holloway, Bob Newton and Ernie Janet will fight for the two guard positions, with Newton a sure starter and Janet given a chance to unseat Holloway. Rich Coady will be the center.

Defensively, there are bright spots and areas of clouds, and it will be one of Coach Abe Giron's most critical tasks to sort out the good players and give them positions to play.

Dick Butkus' status seems to be finally and irrevocably settled. Butkus' announcement of retirement and his filing of a law suit against the Bears ended the question of his playing future. Off the field, the bitterness will linger; on the field, the problem will be to find a replacement for the all-time middle linebacker whose nine-year career is over.

Top draft pick Waymond Bryant, the fourth man chosen in the draft, is said to

NFC Central Prediction: Fourth

be a sure-pop starter right away, and at 6-3 and 236 he possesses magnificent size and speed.

Doug Buffone and Jimmy Gunn are the listed starters on the outside, with Bob Pifferini, Gail Clark and Don Rives (who played in the middle last year) all given chances.

Up front, things could be much worse. First of all, Mel Tom was acquired in mid-season last year and is one of the defensive ends. Then, first-round draft choice Wally Chambers responded to pro football as though he were playing around in a sandbox. He made it look easy, and he's one of the tackles. Tony McGee at an end and Jim Osborne complete the starting foursome.

Also on the roster is the other first-round choice, Dave Gallagher from Michigan. He's 6-4, 245 and will get his chance at end. Just as important, he went through three years of varsity football with a 31-1-1 record. The Bears need such people. Gary Hrivnak, a high draft last year, will take aim at Osborne's tackle job.

The secondary, while a bit anonymous, played smoothly. Six-year veteran Garry Lyle is the free safety and intercepted five passes to lead the team. Rookie Craig Clemons won the strong safety position and impressed his coaches and opponents. Allan Ellis and Joe Taylor are the cornerbacks, with such as Charlie Ford and Bob Jeter figuring heavily as qualified backup personnel in the secondary.

Giron hopes to help himself with trades. He needs help on the offensive line, would go bananas for a proven quarterback and can help himself with an experienced wide receiver. "But," he cautions, "there is no need for a drastic overhaul. What I want to make is key individual replacements here and there."

He can't trade Douglass, for too many power-structure people on the team (that means George Halas and his son, George Jr.) like him. But to keep him doesn't necessarily mean to start him. They'll take a man who passes for a living.

1973 RECORD (3-11)

17 Dallas	20	31 Green Bay	17
13 Minnesota	22	7 Kansas City	19
33 Denver	14	7 Detroit	30
16 New Orleans	21	13 Minnesota	31
6 Atlanta	46	0 Los Angeles	26
10 New England	13	7 Detroit	40
35 Houston	14	0 Green Bay	21

SYMBOLS †—Conference leader
 ††—Tied for conference lead

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	11	8	35
5	0	0	30
5	0	0	30
0	10	6	28
4	0	0	24

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
5	62	0	24	12.4
3	22	0	22	7.3
2	50	0	41	25.0
2	30	0	30	15.0

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
175	655	5	35	3.7
94	525	5	42	5.6
100	370	1	17	3.7
58	191	0	25	3.3

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
82†	3321	62	40.5

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
36	204	1††	72†	5.7

RECEIVING

Rees	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
24	343	4	38	14.3
23	292	0	39	12.7
21	200	2	44	9.5
15	219	1	25	14.6
13	186	0	63	14.3

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
16	486	0	67	30.4†
27	637	1	95	23.6

PASSING

Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
Douglass	174	81	1057	63	5	46.6
Huff	126	54	525	29	3	42.9

OFFENSE

Performance Quotients

QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Douglass, Bobby	6-4	225	27	6	Kansas
Huff, Gary	6-1	200	23	2	Florida State
RUNNING BACKS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Garrett, Carl	5-10	210	27	6	New Mex. Highlands
Harrison, Jim	6-4	235	26	4	Missouri
Moore, Joe	6-1	205	25	3	Missouri
Kosins, Gary	6-2	220	25	3	Dayton
Lawson, Roger	6-2	215	24	3	Western Michigan
Sanderson, Reggie	5-10	206	23	2	Stanford
Taylor, Cliff	5-11	190	22	1	Memphis State
RECEIVERS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Reynolds, Tom (W)	6-3	200	24	2	San Diego State
Thomas, Earl (W)	6-2	215	25	4	Houston
Cotton, Craig (T)	6-2	225	27	6	Youngstown
Farmer, George (W)	6-4	214	26	5	UCLA
Parsons, Bob (T)	6-5	234	24	3	Penn State
Hill, Ike (W)	5-10	180	27	4	Catawba
Wheeler, Wayne (W)	6-2	185	24	1	Alabama
(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End					
INTERIOR LINEMEN	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Asher, Bob (T)	6-6	260	26	4	Vanderbilt
Jackson, Randy (T-C)	6-5	250	30	8	Florida
*Newton, Bob (G)	6-4	250	25	4	Nebraska
Holloway, Glen (G)	6-2	255	25	5	North Texas State
Coady, Rich (C)	6-3	245	29	5	Memphis State
Janet, Ernie (G)	6-4	250	25	3	Washington
Antoine, Lionel (T)	6-6	255	24	3	Southern Illinois
Kinney, Steve (T)	6-5	255	25	2	Utah State
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center					
KICKERS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Roder, Mirro (Pk)	6-1	218	30	2	None
Percival, Mac (Pk)	6-4	220	34	8	Texas Tech
Green, Bobby Joe (P)	5-11	175	38	15	Florida
(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter					

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Tom, Mel (E)	6-4	249	33	8	San Jose State
McGee, Tony (E)	6-4	250	25	4	Bishop
Chambers, Wally (T)	6-6	250	23	2	Eastern Kentucky
Osborne, Jim (T)	6-3	250	24	3	Southern
Hale, Dave (E)	6-8	255	26	4	Ottawa (Kan.)
Hrivnak, Gary (T)	6-5	248	23	2	Purdue
Gallagher, Dave (E)	6-4	245	22	1	Michigan
Rice, Andy (T)	6-2	250	32	7	Texas Southern
(E)—End (T)—Tackle					
LINEBACKERS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Buffone, Doug (O)	6-2	225	30	9	Louisville
Gunn, Jimmy (O)	6-1	220	25	4	Southern California
Bryant, Waymond (M)	6-3	236	22	1	Tennessee State
Clark, Gail (O)	6-2	227	23	2	Michigan State
Rives, Don (M)	6-2	215	23	2	Texas Tech
Pifferini, Bob (O)	6-2	226	24	3	UCLA
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker					
CORNERBACKS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Ellis, Allan	5-10	178	23	2	UCLA
Taylor, Joe	6-0	200	33	8	North Carolina A&T
Ford, Charlie	6-3	185	25	4	Houston
Roberts, Willie	6-1	190	26	2	Houston
SAFETIES	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Clemons, Craig (S)	5-11	200	25	2	Iowa
Lyle, Garry (W)	6-2	198	28	7	G. Washington
Jeter, Bob (S)	6-1	200	37	12	Iowa
(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety					

Douglass is a fine runner; alas, quarterbacks must pass, too. Huff will be capable when he gains experience. PERF. QT.: 4.

Garrett gave the team speed to the outside; he's hardier than he looks for up-the-middle forays. Harrison is powerful when well, but he has been brittle. Moore could develop into a starter if he stays sound. Lawson, Kosins and Sanderson are little more than benchriders, but there is hope for Taylor, a powerfully built rookie. In all, this group is better than average rushing, blocking and receiving, but it is a bit thin behind the starters. PERF. QT.: 3.

Most of the Bears' receivers express unhappiness at the infrequency of Douglass' passes. They have a right, since in Farmer, Thomas and Reynolds an explosive passing game might be fashioned. Reynolds has range and speed. Cotton blocks well at tight end but could lose his job to bigger Parsons. Hill is dangerously quick, but can't seem to break through as a starter. Wheeler could become another fine but disenchanted wide man. PERF. QT.: 3.

Size lives here, as well as a degree of talent. Newton, Janet and Holloway are the guard candidates, with Newton a sure starter and the other two are fighting it out. Asher is the team's top lineman, while Jackson has experience and savvy. Coady is adequate at center. A big plus would be the emergence of Antoine, injured through most of his career. Kinney has a future. As a unit, they do a good job of run blocking, though not quite as good when pass blocking. But these young veterans could get better quickly. PERF. QT.: 3.

Specialization to its ultimate is the case here. Roder handles long field goals, Percival the shorter ones. Neither was impressive. Green is one of NFL's best (and oldest) punters. PERF. QT.: 3.

McGee and Tom will start at the ends. Tom played well after coming over from the Eagles in mid-season of '73. Chambers, greatly impressive as a rookie, could become one of the league's best. Osborne is solid at the other tackle spot. Reserves will mount meaningful challenges for every job except Chambers'. Gallagher will get every chance to unseat McGee, Hrivnak has a valuable year's experience and Hale is highly regarded by his coaches. Rice has experience but may be in jeopardy. PERF. QT.: 3.

Buffone and Gunn played well, but the big question here is how to replace Dick Butkus. Top draft Bryant will get every opportunity to step right in, with young Rives given only an outside chance to win the job. Clark and Pifferini constitute good depth. But so much depends on the Butkus-replacement issue that it is difficult to evaluate this unit. PERF. QT.: 3.

Taylor is experienced and performs respectably. Ellis seems to have the left side job cinched in his second year. And yet Ford played well there last season. Roberts will have to fight hard to make this team. PERF. QT.: 2.

Clemons could be a star. Lyle surprised by playing so well in '73. The deep spots seem well taken care of, especially with old pro Jeter in reserve. And he could start in a pinch. PERF. QT.: 2.

LOS ANGELES RAMS



John Hadl threw 22 touchdowns for the NFC Western champions.

The Rams, a blend of youth and age with more than just a dash of talent and a sprinkle of enthusiasm, surprised everyone in 1973 with a 12-2 record and the NFC's Western Division championship.

This year they'll surprise everyone if they don't win it. What is more important, they'll disappoint themselves if they don't go even further. Miracle-worker Chuck Knox, whose excellence as a first-year coach was rewarded with a new five-year contract, said, "We know what we can do. Now we have to simply do it."

If the Rams' offense had to be described in one word, that word might be balanced. Or it might be dynamic. Then again, it might be explosive. So a compromise: Los Angeles has a balanced, dynamic, explosive offense—and then some.

It starts, of course, at quarterback. John Hadl was new in '73, having moved up the coast from San Diego after giving the Chargers what were thought to be the best 11 years of his career. That wasn't right—he gave the Rams the best year of his career, at age 33.

But heroics are possible only with healthy men, and should an injury ax old John, there is trouble. Behind him are James Harris, embarking on his fifth season in the NFL but hardly ever a player, and a rookie leftover from last year, Ron Jaworski.

To run the ball, Knox has Lawrence

("Don't Call Me Larry") McCutcheon, who as a rookie gained 1,097 yards, and Jim ("Don't Call Me James, I Guess") Bertelsen, who added 854. Tony ("Call Me Anything You Like") Baker backs them up, having gained 344 yards with seven big TDs. There is also first-round rookie John Cappelletti (you may call him Heisman).

Wide receivers? There was Harold Jackson, frequently called Fast Harold by the fans and the media and several less fragrant names by defensive backs. Jackson caught 40 passes, good for 874 yards and 13 TDs. On the other side is Lance Rentzel, back from his one-year suspension, and aging Jack Snow. Bulky and talented Bob Klein (6-5, 235) is the tight end.

The interior line has talent. It has experience. And boy, does it have age! Tackle Charlie Cowan is 36. Guard Joe Scibelli is 35. Center Ken Iman is 35. Guard Tom Mack, an All-Pro, is 30 and John Williams, the other tackle, is the baby at 28.

Defensively, Coach Knox used skill, luck, waiver claims and a lot of sweet-talking to get a unit that played so well. Further, there is no reason to suspect it won't play even better in the '74 campaign.

Up front, he'll start Fred Dryer and Jack Youngblood at the ends, Merlin Olsen (he's 33) and Larry Brooks at the tackles. Enemy quarterbacks were sacked

NFC West Prediction: First

45 times last year, and often not just sacked but torn apart.

Linebackers on this team are young. Also terrific. On the weak-side is All-Pro Isiah Robertson. In the middle is Jack Reynolds. On the strong-side one finds Ken Geddes. Reynolds and Geddes are 26, Robertson 25.

Robertson is the intriguing man in this area. He's 6-3 and will play between 225 and 230. He hits like a truck, runs like the wind and intimidates like Erlichman and Haldeman.

The secondary remains a standing tribute to Knox's sleight-of-hand. He inherited one veteran, Dave Elmendorf. He claimed two veterans for the \$100 waiver price, Steve Preece and Charlie Stukes. And he told one rookie, Eddie McMillan, not to worry about guys like John Gilliam and Paul Warfield and Harold Carmichael and Charley Taylor.

So he put Preece at free safety, Elmendorf at strong safety, McMillan on the right corner and Stukes on the left corner. Shazam! The four of them played like glue, as if controlled by one mind.

But less kind people will say it is relatively easy to be a deep back in this defense, what with all the mayhem going on courtesy of the front four and the linebackers.

The kicking game is in capable hands (or is that feet?). David Ray led the league in scoring with 130 points, on 30 of 47 field goals and 40 extra points. Punter Dave Chapple had a 40.8-yard average for 51 kicks, but gets good hang time and should be more effective now when aiming for the sidelines and the corners.

The Rams lost to Dallas in the opening round of the 1973 playoffs, but the Cow-boys needed a Hail Mary pass from Roger Staubach to rookie Drew Pearson for an 83-yard TD that locked it up.

The thought that lurks in Fantasyland now is that if the Rams get to the playoffs, they won't stop until they run out of games to win.

And then maybe McCutcheon will let people call him Larry.

1973 RECORD (12-3)

23 Kansas City	13	29 New Orleans	7
31 Atlanta	0	31 San Francisco	13
40 San Francisco	20	24 New Orleans	13
31 Houston	26	26 Chicago	0
37 Dallas	31	40 New York Giants	6
24 Green Bay	7	30 Cleveland	17
9 Minnesota	10	(Playoff)	
13 Atlanta	15	16 Dallas	27

SYMBOLS **—Traded
†—Conference leader
††—Tied for conference lead

PASSING						
Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
Hadl	258	135	2008	69	22	11 52.3
Harris	11	7	68	27	0	0 63.6

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	40	30†	130†
13	0	0	78
7	0	0	42
5	0	0	30
5	0	0	30

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
5	104	0	42	20.8
4	20	0	15	5.0
3	57	1	49	19.0
2	52	0	49	26.0
2	25	0	25	12.5

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
210	1097	2	37	5.2†
206	854	4	49	4.1
85	344	7	17	4.0
79	291	2	16	3.7

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
51	2079	65	40.8

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
40	874	13†	69	21.9†
30	289	3	31	9.6
21	277	2	23	13.2
19	267	1	44	14.1
16	252	2	38	15.8

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
26	259	0	34	10.0
22	187	0	30	8.5

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
13	369	1††	93	28.4
11	314	0	57	28.5

OFFENSE

Performance Quotients

QUARTERBACKS					
Hadl, John	6-1	214	34	13	Kansas
Harris, James	6-4	210	27	5	Grambling
Jaworski, Ron	6-2	185	23	1	Youngstown
RUNNING BACKS					
McCutcheon, Lawr.	6-1	205	24	2	Colorado State
Bertelsen, Jim	5-11	205	24	3	Texas
Baker, Tony	5-11	225	29	7	Iowa State
Cappelletti, John	6-1	217	21	1	Penn State
Josephson, Les	6-1	207	32	10	Augustana
Scribner, Rob	6-0	200	23	2	UCLA
RECEIVERS					
Jackson, Harold (W)	5-10	175	28	7	Jackson State
Rentzel, Lance (W)	6-2	202	30	9	Oklahoma
Klein, Bob (T)	6-5	235	27	6	Southern California
Snow, Jack (W)	6-2	190	31	10	Notre Dame
Drake, Bill (W)	6-1	195	24	2	Oregon
Caldwell, Jason (W)	6-1	192	22	1	N.C. Central
Curran, Pat (T)	6-3	238	28	6	Lakeland
Carson, Ananias (W)	6-0	166	22	1	Langston (Okla.)
INTERIOR LINEMEN					
Cowan, Charlie (T)	6-4	265	36	14	New Mex. Highlands
Williams, John (T)	6-3	256	28	7	Minnesota
Mack, Tom (G)	6-3	250	30	9	Michigan
Scibelli, Joe (G)	6-0	255	35	14	Notre Dame
Iman, Ken (C)	6-1	240	35	14	Southeast Missouri
Saul, Rich (G-C)	6-3	235	26	5	Michigan State
Schuh, Harry (T)	6-3	260	31	10	Memphis State
Oliver, Al (T)	6-6	270	21	1	UCLA
Allison, Hank (G)	6-3	255	27	3	San Diego State
KICKERS					
Ray, David (Pk)	6-0	195	29	6	Alabama
Chapple, Dave (P)	6-1	180	27	4	Cal-Santa Barbara
DEFENSE					
FRONT LINEMEN					
Dryer, Fred (E)	6-6	240	28	6	San Diego State
Youngblood, Jack (E)	6-4	250	24	4	Florida
Olsen, Merlin (T)	6-5	265	33	13	Utah State
Brooks, Larry (T)	6-3	255	24	3	Virginia State
Olsen, Phil (E)	6-5	265	26	4	Utah State
Nelson, Bill (T)	6-7	270	26	4	Oregon State
LINEBACKERS					
Robertson, Isiah (O)	6-3	225	25	4	Southern
Geddes, Ken (O)	6-3	235	26	4	Nebraska
Reynolds, Jack (M)	6-1	232	26	5	Tennessee
Stein, Bob (O-M)	6-3	235	26	6	Minnesota
Kay, Rick (O)	6-4	235	24	2	Colorado
Youngblood, Jim (M)	6-3	229	24	2	Tennessee Tech
Peterson, Jim (O)	6-5	240	24	1	San Diego State
CORNERBACKS					
McMillan, Eddie	6-0	190	22	2	Florida State
Stukes, Charlie	6-3	212	30	8	Maryland State
Simpson, Bill	6-1	180	22	1	Michigan State
Clark, Al	6-0	185	26	4	Eastern Michigan
SAFETIES					
Elmendorf, Dave (S)	6-1	195	25	4	Texas A&M
Preece, Steve (W)	6-1	195	27	6	Oregon State
Bryant, Cullen (S)	6-1	210	23	2	Colorado

Hadl is much more than adequate. He blends experience, ability and top condition so that his age won't matter yet. But Harris is not enough and Jaworski is untested. PERF. QT.: 2.

This is the best stable in the conference. McCutcheon and Bertelsen both run inside with power, outside with speed. Baker is a smart close-in runner. Cappelletti is highly regarded and will make up for Larry Smith's absence. Josephson seems ready to retire. Scribner was a rookie with speed. McCutcheon and Bertelsen are superb receivers and blockers as well as ball carriers. PERF. QT.: 1.

Jackson is called by many the most dangerous wide man in the NFC. He has great speed and hands plus the knack of getting clear in zone coverage. Klein is a super blocker and better than average receiver. The Rams are counting heavily on a return to form of Rentzel after his suspension. Snow may be a problem if he is counted on for heavy duty; he hasn't much speed left. Drake may get a shot at defensive back. The team has high hopes for Caldwell. Carson has a chance. Curran adequately backs Klein. PERF. QT.: 2.

Mack is without question the top guard in the league. Scibelli and Cowan considered retirement, but are coming back for a Super Bowl chance. Both are more than good if they avoid injury. Williams is young, strong and still learning. Iman is a proved top center who also faces a potential age problem. Saul and Schuh are the top reserves. Oliver is a highly regarded rookie with outstanding size. Allison remained on the reserve list all of '73; he also has potential. There appears to be enough depth here, though quality falls after the starters. PERF. QT.: 2.

Ray led the league in scoring with 130 points; he converted 30 of 47 field goals. Chapple gets good hang time. PERF. QT.: 2.

Dryer finally realized his potential and became an outstanding end, better than Youngblood but not by much. Merlin Olsen is remarkable in that he keeps his age hidden and is still one of the NFL's top tackles. Brooks was a bit of a surprise; he plays with strong inside moves. Phil Olsen is a capable fill-in. Nelson has great size and is learning to utilize it. PERF. QT.: 2.

Robertson is among the best hitters in the league; he covers passes well, shows new understanding of the game. Geddes is still a bit suspect but he played well last year. Reynolds did a good job in the middle; he's another youngster with promise. Stein is a heavy hitter, a good replacement. Kay showed some ability. Youngblood showed even more. Peterson's size is intriguing. This is a young group that will get better. PERF. QT.: 2.

McMillan was a rookie last year and amazed observers with his progress. Stukes amazed, too, because he was waived to the Rams. Simpson is a solid contender for a job, though a bit light. Clark has experience but must be considered the fourth man. PERF. QT.: 3.

Elmendorf is a prize—dependable and hard to fool. Preece can be taken but he blended in well behind the front four and the linebackers. Bryant should have progressed further. PERF. QT.: 3.



ATLANTA FALCONS



Dave Hampton rolled up 997 yards for the Falcons.

With three games left to play in the '73 season, the Atlanta Falcons owned an 8-3 record. They appeared to have a playoff berth wrapped up, especially since the final three opponents had names that sounded like Buffalo, St. Louis and New Orleans.

In addition, the Falcons were on a seven-game winning streak entering those final three games, a span in which they had beaten the likes of Minnesota, Los Angeles and . . . and, well, it all went to hell.

The Bills did the first damage, taking a 17-6 game. Then the lowly Cards won their outing, 32-10, and by the time Atlanta finally won again, beating New Orleans, 14-10, it was too little and too late.

What would you do now, if you were Coach Norm Van Brocklin?

Probably nothing. He has chosen to write off that collapse as the result of a young team, an inexperienced team, facing true pressure for the first time. Going into 1974, therefore, very little has been changed or altered. And with reason, since the Falcons have a young and talented team that must now be given the chance to grow together, as a unit. But if a collapse should take place again this season, Norman will probably do a lot. Like get fired.

Offensively, Van Brocklin will go with young Bob Lee at quarterback, the kid who took the job from Dick Shiner after

four games (1-3) and won eight of the next 10. Shiner is gone, having been replaced as a backup by Pat Sullivan.

To run the ball, Van Brocklin has Dave Hampton and Eddie Ray, plus a backup group of which Art Malone is top man.

Wide receivers are good—and should get better. From last year's collection come Tom Geredine, Louis Neal, Al Dodd and Ken Burrow. The latter pair were starters until they got hurt. Then the two rookies, Geredine and Neal, got a chance. They did nicely. And now there is rookie Gerald Tinker, the team's first draft pick, who has run the 100-yard dash in 9.1.

Tight end is Jim Mitchell, a hulking 6-1, 236-pounder who might be the best in the conference (and who signed with the WFL for 1975), backed up by Larry Mialik.

The interior line is now a well-functioning unit, young and big. Bill Sandeman and George Kunz are the tackles, Andy Maurer and Dennis Havig the guards, Jeff Van Note the center. Len Gotshalk, Ted Fritsch and Nick Bebout provide bench strength. Kunz is an All-Pro. Sandeman and Maurer could be soon.

Defense, once a sick joke in Atlanta, now makes others ill.

Take the front four, for example. The lightest man on the line is end John Zook, and he weighs in at 249 (and stands 6-5). The others are Claude Humphrey (6-5,

NFC West

Prediction: Second

265), Mike Lewis (6-4, 261) and Mike Tilleman (6-7, 278). Humphrey, of course, is an annual Pro Bowl participant.

A healthy Tommy Nobis mans the middle linebacker spot, flanked by Greg Brezina and Don Hansen. Van Brocklin feels he has three outstanding replacements, too, in Duane Benson, Lonnie Warwick and Ken Mitchell. He's probably right.

The secondary, to no one's surprise, has become a superb unit. Ken Reaves is the senior citizen, a veteran of eight seasons. He's on the left corner. Tom Hayes is on the right corner, with Ray Brown the strong safety and Clarence Ellis the free safety. These four stole 14 passes in 1973, led by Brown's six.

What Van Brocklin has to do is get consistency out of his offense. Lee was good but is still relatively young and untested. Malone, a 6-0, 216-pounder, is explosive but was hurt and missed five games (Burrow sat out for five, Dodd missed only one full contest but was absent for parts of several others).

And then there is the matter of the end-of-season disaster.

"We started to believe everybody when they said how good we were," Van Brocklin said in his uniquely acid fashion. "We believed the press and the other players and the television people and even the shady ladies of Peachtree Street. The kids had their heads turned, and other teams knocked them off."

But the Falcons seem ready for a flag run now, tempered by their ordeal and experience in 1973.

They also found a kicker last year, rookie Nick Mike-Mayer, who was successful on 26 of 38 field goal tries and scored 112 points. Johnny James, a second-year punter, built a healthy 42.6 average.

If it comes to toes, the Falcons are in good shape. Now they have to start paying less attention to the shady ladies and more to the teams from St. Louis and Buffalo.

1973 RECORD (9-5)

62 New Orleans	7	15 Los Angeles	13
0 Los Angeles	31	44 Philadelphia	27
6 Detroit	31	20 Minnesota	14
9 San Francisco	13	28 New York Jets	20
46 Chicago	6	6 Buffalo	17
41 San Diego	0	10 St. Louis	32
17 San Francisco	3	14 New Orleans	10

SYMBOL †—Conference leader

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	34	26	112
11	0	0	66
7	0	0	42
5	0	0	30

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
6	99	0	24	16.5
4	142	2†	65	35.5
3	51	0	36	17.0
2	90	0	48	45.0
2	20	0	11	10.0

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
263	997	4	25	3.8
96	434	9	17	4.5
76	336	2	14	4.4

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
63	2682	72†	42.6

Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
230	120	1786	57	10	8	52.2
26	14	175	21	1	0	53.8

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
32	420	0	50	13.1
31	567	7	57	18.3
25	273	1	22	10.9
19	291	0	25	15.3
19	192	2	39	10.1
19	177	1	33	9.3

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
40†	360†	0	57	9.0
8	69	0	28	8.6

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
20	432	0	30	21.6
11	258	0	42	23.5

OFFENSE

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
QUARTERBACKS					
Lee, Bob	6-2	201	28	6	Pacific
Sullivan, Pat	5-11	201	24	3	Auburn
McQuilken, Kim	6-2	203	23	1	Lehigh

RUNNING BACKS					
Hampton, Dave	6-0	202	27	6	Wyoming
Ray, Eddie	6-2	240	27	5	LSU
Malone, Art	6-0	216	26	5	Arizona State
Highsmith, Don	6-0	205	26	5	Michigan State
*Wages, Harmon	6-1	212	28	6	Florida
Matthews, Henry	6-3	212	25	3	Michigan State
Kendrick, Vince	6-0	223	21	1	Florida

RECEIVERS					
Burrow, Ken (W)	6-0	191	26	4	San Diego State
Dodd, Al (W)	6-0	178	29	7	N.W. Louisiana
*Mitchell, Jim (T)	6-1	236	27	6	Prairie View
Neal, Louis (W)	6-4	215	24	2	Prairie View
Geredine, Tom (W)	6-2	189	24	2	N.E. Missouri
Tinker, Gerald (W)	5-9	170	23	1	Kent State
Mialik, Larry (T)	6-1	226	24	3	Wisconsin
Childs, Henry (T)	6-2	223	23	1	Kansas State

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN					
Sandeman, Bill (T)	6-6	265	32	9	Pacific
Kunz, George (T)	6-6	268	27	6	Notre Dame
Havig, Dennis (G)	6-2	256	25	3	Colorado
Maurer, Andy (G)	6-3	247	26	5	Oregon
Van Note, Jeff (C)	6-2	247	28	6	Kentucky
Gotshalk, Len (G-T)	6-4	259	24	3	Humboldt State
Fritsch, Ted (C)	6-2	242	24	3	St. Norbert
Bebout, Nick (T)	6-5	260	23	2	Wyoming

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS					
Mike-Mayer, Nick (Pk)	5-9	187	24	2	Temple
James, John (P)	6-3	200	25	3	Florida

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN					
Humphrey, Claude (E)	6-5	265	30	7	Tennessee State
Zook, John (E)	6-5	249	27	6	Kansas
Lewis, Mike (T)	6-4	261	25	4	Arkansas AM&N
Tillemann, Mike (T)	6-7	278	30	8	Montana
Marx, Greg (T-E)	6-4	260	24	2	Notre Dame
Manning, Rosie (T)	6-5	255	25	3	N.E. Oklahoma
Walker, Chuck (T)	6-3	261	33	11	Duke

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS					
Brezina, Greg (O)	6-1	221	28	6	Houston
Hansen, Don (O)	6-2	228	30	8	Illinois
Nobis, Tom (M)	6-2	243	30	9	Texas
Benson, Duane (O)	6-2	220	29	8	Hamline
Warwick, Lonnie (M)	6-2	240	32	10	Tennessee Tech
Mitchell, Ken (O)	6-1	224	26	2	Nevada-Las Vegas

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS					
Reaves, Ken	6-3	209	30	9	Norfolk State
Hayes, Tom	6-1	198	28	4	San Diego State
Spencer, Maurice	6-0	175	22	1	N.C. Central

SAFETIES					
Brown, Ray (S)	6-2	202	25	4	West Texas State
Ellis, Clarence (W)	6-0	190	24	3	Notre Dame
Easterling, Ray (S)	6-0	192	25	3	Richmond
Plummer, Tony (S-W)	5-10	187	27	5	Pacific

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Lee played the last 10 games—losing two. But he still is relatively unproven, though potentially sound. Sullivan must be lacking something, since McQuilken was a No. 3 pick. PERF. QT.: 3.

Hampton, one of the best, has quickness and strength. Ray is a huge fullback with predictable power and a nose for the end zone. Malone wants that job back, but may have trouble getting it. Highsmith is a new face (from Green Bay) and has versatility. Wages, a veteran do-everything, did a WFL singing. Matthews, little-used for two seasons, can be a factor now. Kendrick is thought of as another strong fullback. The depth is good here. PERF. QT.: 3.

Burrow and Dodd were the starters going into 1973. Both were hurt, though they played well before that. Then Neal and Geredine came through as a matched set of fleet rookies. Mitchell is one of the top tight ends in the business. Tinker, the top draft pick, is diminutive but terribly fast. Childs, another rookie, has size and can challenge Mialik. There will be a Donnybrook for the wide receiver spots, but whoever wins will help the team and whoever loses provides ample bench riches. PERF. QT.: 3.

This is a young, somewhat faceless, but nevertheless solid unit. Kunz and Sandeman provide outstanding tackle play, while Maurer and Havig showed progress and played at a much higher level than they had before. Van Note came along at center and now has the job locked up. Gotshalk, Fritsch and Bebout don't seem able to break through, but they have youth and size and will help the bench. Kunz was an All-Pro (not for the first time). Maurer sometimes has problems with quick defensive tackles, but who doesn't? PERF. QT.: 2.

Mike-Mayer came through as a rookie and solved an old problem. James, a second-year man, punted competently. PERF. QT.: 2.

Humphrey and Zook combine to give the Falcons perhaps the best end team in the NFC. Lewis and Tillemann might be the biggest tackle tandem in the business. All four had good seasons. Humphrey is the class of the unit, a perennial All-Pro. Zook isn't far behind, and he benefits from the presence of the other three. Marx showed some ability as a rookie, while Manning and Walker (a pro veteran) can push for jobs but will wind up as reserves. PERF. QT.: 1.

Nobis in the middle solves most problems, while Brezina and Hansen don't cause any. All three are mobile and mean, with Hansen especially delighting in the violent hit. Nobis stayed clear of injury, a critical factor to Falcon success, and all three work well behind the outstanding front line. Benson and Warwick comprise good bench security, while Mitchell has potential for improvement. PERF. QT.: 2.

Reaves, at 30, is the dean of the secondary. He's still very good. Hayes is better than very good if he continues to play as he did in '73. Spencer is a promising third round draft pick. PERF. QT.: 2.

Brown had six interceptions, the second-best figure in the conference, and has size, speed and toughness. Ellis loses to no one in straight-away speed. Easterling could start for other teams. Plummer is an able reserve. PERF. QT.: 2.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

NFC

West

Prediction:
Third



John Beasley led the Saints with 32 receptions in '73.

A funny thing happened to the New Orleans Saints on their way to another embarrassing season in 1973.

It didn't happen.

Instead, John "Ringling" North got the coaching job late in the summer, brought in some experienced players from other teams, waited through a disastrous learning period (the Saints lost their first two games by a composite score of 102-10) and suddenly saw his teachings take hold.

From a 2-11-1 nightmare in 1972 the Saints climbed to 5-9 in 1973, and now with youth, experience and a touch of talent, there is a decided up-trend in their future. But, being realistic, North does not expect to be competitive, however, until the rest of the pieces can be fitted together. "We're all through with those wholesale changes," he says. "We know what we have and we know what we need."

Offensively, North upgraded his running back supply by obtaining Joe Profit from Atlanta and Jess Phillips from Cincinnati. They turned out to be the Saints' top two ground gainers in the second half of the season, with Phillips leading the team for the year with 663 yards.

He also acquired tight end John Beasley from Minnesota and wide receiver Jubilee Dunbar from San Francisco. Beasley paced the team with 32 catches while Dunbar averaged a hefty 19.4 yards a reception.

Archie Manning, of course, is still the quarterback... still a dangerous weapon both passing and running with the ball. Behind him is a gaping hole, with just Bobby Scott and rookie Larry Cipa listed. Clearly, North is gambling that nothing happens to the dynamic redhead.

Dunbar and Bob Newland are to be the starting wide receivers. Beasley is the tight end, with Len Garrett and rookie Paul Seal providing competition.

Profit and Phillips are the runners, backed by Bill Butler, mini-mite Howard (5-5) Stevens and Odell Lawson. Rookie Rod McNeill is another who has a future. Profit, a former No. 1 pick by Atlanta, is the key here. He can be a good one, or an expensive mistake.

Inside, the Saints are building a young blocking unit. Carl Johnson at left tackle and right guard Royce Smith are in their third years. Don Morrison, the right tackle, is a four-year player, leaving John Didion and Del Williams as the "veterans" of the line.

The offense, then, is mediocre to good. But it is clearly superior to offenses the Saints used to field, even when they had star wide receiver Danny Abramowicz.

Defense is another matter. It's good... and could be better than that.

The front four shows Billy Newsome and Joe Owens at the ends, Bob Pollard and Elex Price at the tackles. Newsome came from Baltimore last year and was

an immediate star. Pollard has started since opening day of his rookie camp, and young Price took over as a rookie last season and never stopped.

Moreover, this area may be New Orleans' deepest. Waiting for turns in the pits are 6-7, 260-pound Steve Baumgartner; 6-4, 260-pound Derland Moore; and agile, maybe-a-linebacker Andy Dorris, 6-4 and 230.

Linebacking, too, should develop into a competition among qualified people. At the moment, the three starters will be Joe Federspiel in the middle, flanked by Jim Merlo and Wayne Colman.

Federspiel, who won the job as a rookie in '72, showed continued improvement last year. Merlo was a rookie last year, a 6-1, 225-pounder who hits a ton. Colman is the veteran, 6-1 and 220 with agility and some knowledge of pass coverage.

But lurking ominously in the wings is No. 1 draft pick Rick Middleton, a 6-2, 228-pounder via Ohio State. He'll be behind Merlo for now, but could well push Federspiel in another year.

The secondary? Color it young, overpopulated and hungry.

On the corners are Bivian Lee and Ernie Jackson. At the safeties are Tommy Myers and Johnny Fuller. And waiting to regain jobs they held before getting hurt are Hugo Hollas and Jerry Moore.

Hollas missed the entire season with a knee that required the knife, while Moore was plagued with a pulled stomach muscle. He missed all of four games and was subpar for the other 10. Jackson, Myers and Lee each came up with three interceptions.

Bill McClard, the placekicker, and punter Steve O'Neal are inconsistent, but they have shown ability at points in their careers.

What do the Saints need? They could use solid running, better pass receiving, more progress from the offensive line and some help from the outside linebackers.

Given all that, New Orleans could have a winner... and all that jazz.

1973 RECORD (5-9)

7 Atlanta	62	13 Buffalo	0
3 Dallas	40	7 Los Angeles	29
10 Baltimore	14	14 San Diego	17
21 Chicago	16	13 Los Angeles	24
20 Detroit	13	10 Green Bay	30
0 San Francisco	40	16 San Francisco	10
19 Washington	3	10 Atlanta	14

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	9	13	48
4	0	0	24
4	0	0	24
0	7	4	19
3	0	0	18

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
3	40	0	23	13.3
3	33	0	20	11.0
3	25	0	16	8.3
3	23	0	12	7.7

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
198	663	0	20	3.3
87	348	1	19	4.0
90	329	2	22	3.7
63	293	2	23	4.7

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
81	3375	71	41.7

SYMBOLS

- Combined Atlanta-New Orleans record
 ••—Combined Minnesota-New Orleans record
 Phillips
 Butler
 •Profit
 Manning

PASSING

Atts	Comp	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
Manning	267	140	1642	65	10	52.4
Scott	54	18	245	42	1	33.3

- Beasley
 Newland
 Phillips
 Butler

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
17	171	0	37	10.1
5	47	0	17	9.4

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
26	590	0	48	22.7
8	144	0	26	18.0

OFFENSE

Ht Wt Age Exp College

QUARTERBACKS

Manning, Archie	6-3	215	25	4	Mississippi
Scott, Bobby	6-1	200	25	3	Tennessee
Cipa, Larry	6-3	209	22	1	Michigan

RUNNING BACKS

Profit, Joe	6-0	213	25	4	N.E. Louisiana
Phillips, Jess	6-1	210	27	7	Michigan State
Butler, Bill	6-0	210	24	3	Kansas State
Stevens, Howard	5-5	165	24	2	Louisville
Lawson, Odell	6-2	205	24	4	Langston (Okla.)
McNeill, Rod	6-2	219	23	1	Southern California

RECEIVERS

Dunbar, Jubilee (W)	6-0	196	25	2	Southern
Newland, Bob (W)	6-2	190	25	4	Oregon
Beasley, John (T)	6-3	228	29	7	California
Winslow, Doug (W)	5-11	181	23	2	Drake
Thomas, Speedy (W)	6-1	170	27	6	Utah
Garrett, Len (T)	6-3	230	26	4	New Mex. Highlands
Seal, Paul (T)	6-4	213	22	1	Michigan

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

Johnson, Carl (T)	6-3	255	24	3	Nebraska
Morrison, Don (T)	6-5	260	24	4	Texas-Arlington
Smith, Royce (G)	6-3	255	25	3	Georgia
Williams, Del (G-C)	6-2	250	28	8	Florida State
Didion, John (C)	6-4	255	26	6	Oregon State
Thompson, D. (G-C-T)	6-4	260	24	4	Clemson
Robinson, Craig (T)	6-4	250	25	3	Houston

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

McClard, Bill (Pk)	5-10	202	24	3	Arkansas
O'Neal, Steve (P)	6-3	185	28	6	Texas A&M

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

Newsome, Billy (E)	6-5	260	26	5	Grambling
Owens, Joe (E)	6-2	250	27	5	Alcorn A&M
Pollard, Bob (T)	6-3	250	25	4	Weber State
Price, Elex (T)	6-3	260	24	2	Alcorn A&M
Baumgartner, S. (E)	6-7	260	23	2	Purdue
Moore, Derland (T)	6-4	260	22	2	Oklahoma
Billingsley, Ron (T)	6-8	288	29	7	Wyoming
Dorris, Andy (E)	6-4	230	23	2	New Mexico State

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

Merlo, Jim (O)	6-1	225	22	2	Stanford
Colman, Wayne (O)	6-1	220	28	7	Temple
Federspiel, Joe (M)	6-1	235	24	3	Kentucky
Hall, Willie (O)	6-2	225	24	3	Southern California
Palmer, Dick (O)	6-2	232	26	5	Kentucky
Middleton, Rick (O)	6-2	228	22	1	Ohio State
Kingrea, Rick (M)	6-1	230	25	4	Tulane

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

Jackson, Ernie	5-10	175	24	3	Duke
Lee, Bivian	6-3	200	26	4	Prairie View
Fink, Mike	5-11	185	23	2	Missouri

SAFETIES

Myers, Tom (S)	5-11	184	23	3	Syracuse
Fuller, Johnny (W)	6-0	185	28	7	Lamar
Ramsey, Nate (S)	6-1	200	33	12	Indiana
Moore, Jerry (W)	6-3	208	25	4	Arkansas
Hollas, Hugo (W)	6-1	190	28	4	Rice

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Manning had a super season and finally got some help from his teammates, too. Scott and Cipa are untested reserves. Cipa figures to be on the reserve squad this season. PERF. QT.: 2.

Profit and Phillips were the starters as the Saints finally found two backs of NFL caliber. Both have shortcomings but are ahead of the rest. Butler is no more than a reserve. Stevens is fun to watch because of his height but can't start regularly. Lawson is strong but erratic. McNeill may push for the No. 3 spot. One super back would make this offense click. PERF. QT.: 3.

Dunbar and Newland, like Profit and Phillips, provided some permanence to the offense. Newland is the better receiver, Dunbar has more speed. Beasley came from the Vikings to win a regular job. Winslow and Thomas are no more than bench help. Garrett will be pushed hard by rookie Seal, but neither is going to touch Beasley, who paced the team with 32 receptions. Newland was close with 29, for 489 yards. Reserves are weak. PERF. QT.: 4.

At least there is youth here. Smith and Morrison might be the best of the group now that long-time veteran Jake Kupp has retired. Johnson is growing into his job at tackle, while Williams is a veteran who has shown remarkable late progress. Didion isn't bad at center, though he might lose his job to Thompson, an acquisition from Detroit. Robinson is the best of the young reserves. There's not much depth here, and it's going to hurt. PERF. QT.: 4.

McClard scored only 48 points, after winning the job in mid-season. O'Neal suffers as a punter. PERF. QT.: 5.

This is a fair-to-good unit which should improve with experience. Newsome came from the Colts and added quality to the Saints' front line. Owens and Pollard continued to show growth as pros, while Price was a revelation as a rookie. There is good potential among the reserves, especially with Baumgartner (great size) and Moore (super quickness). Billingsley has opted for the WFL (in '75), but he can play if his attitude is right. Dorris, who showed some ability, can also expect a trial as a linebacker. PERF. QT.: 3.

Merlo made it as a rookie, and made it big. Colman is an anonymous veteran who plays a rugged game. Federspiel withstood a series of challenges, emerged as the man in the middle and did a solid job. Hall looks like the top sub; Palmer is a journeyman. Middleton, the first-round draft choice, has a big future. Kingrea has had chances before. The strongest overall factor here is youth, and Coach North may work in some more via Middleton. PERF. QT.: 3.

Jackson is a hard-hitting, quick-moving, far-ranging defender. Lee has nice size and is a head-hunter with good speed. Fink is an able backup, but there is a depth problem here. PERF. QT.: 3.

Myers may be the team's best defensive player. He has everything, including a knack for finding the ball. Fuller has some experience, some speed. Hollas, a 1972 starter, missed the entire season and Moore was injured for much of '73. Ramsey could find himself forced into retirement. PERF. QT.: 2.



SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS



Dan Abramowicz helped the 49ers after coming from the Saints.

This is one of those strange, almost unreadable teams that evaluators are faced with every season.

On the surface, the San Francisco outlook is not hopeful. Nor, on the other hand, is it woeful. It could be a question of old age causing a collapse, or of experience asserting itself.

So, treading on tenuous tiptoes, a rebuilding year—of sorts—is predicted. With a whole bushel of “ifs.”

One of the few givens is that veteran quarterback John Brodie has retired. Another is that his heir apparent, Steve Spurrier, has failed often in the past when given a chance. But was he looking over his shoulder? Did Coach Dick Nolan react to adversity too quickly and summon Brodie?

Those things remain to be seen. But if Spurrier, now 29, can't do it, then the 49ers are in a deep hole. Behind him is little-used Joe Reed, who has had chances, also, without delivering.

Running, too, will be a problematical area. Vet fullback Ken Willard was traded, to St. Louis. That would seem to leave Vic Washington and Larry Schreiber as the starters. But Schreiber was injured last year and has to prove his knee is sound, and two of the first four draft choices were running backs—Alabama's Wilbur Jackson and Kansas' Del Williams. And Sammy Johnson, a 217-pounder from North Carolina, was a fourth-round selection.

Wide receiving seems no problem, with Gene Washington on one end and Danny Abramowicz on the other. Terry Beasley, out all last season, is back and job-hunting.

Ted Kwalick won't be WFL-bound until 1975, which insures top tight end production this season. Behind him is Dick Witcher, another 1975 WFL-er, and a hulking rookie, No. 2 pick Keith Fahnhorst, a 6-6, 254-pounder who's also a tackle.

The interior line is set—just wind it up and watch them block.

Center Forrest Blue is the anchor, surrounded by guards Randy Beisler and Woody Peoples, tackles Len Rohde and Cas Banaszek or John Watson. Jean Barrett, Edgar Hardy and Fahnhorst will back up.

All right. Big problems here at quarterback, potentially big ones at running back.

Defensively, some indecision but no major woes unless the blood disease that tackle Bob Hoskins contracted forces him into retirement.

The front four will be Tommy Hart, Cedrick Hardman and Hoskins, Rolf Krueger, rookie Bill Sandifer or Stan Hindman, who retired in 1972 and is trying to make a comeback. Tackle Charlie Krueger retired after 15 years.

Linebackers? Another source of annoyance to Nolan.

First there is Dave Wilcox, the strong-

NFC
West
Prediction:
Fourth

side All-Pro; then there is young Willie Harper, who inherited the weak-side job when Skip Vanderbunt was hurt. The problem is the middle, and Coach Nolan is thinking of having Frank Nunley, Vanderbunt and Jim Sniadecki fight it out and taking the winner. Harper, then, seems secure. Wilcox is an untouchable.

The secondary should provide an interesting battleground, too. Mike Simpson, last year's free safety, has been traded, and his job, of course, must be filled. The other three spots all list incumbent starters—Jimmy Johnson on the left corner, Bruce Taylor on the right and Mel Phillips at strong safety. This will be Johnson's 14th year, and perhaps the once-incomparable performer will be slowed down. If so, the whole secondary can come apart.

Windlan Hall started at free safety late last season and now has the first crack at permanently claiming the position. However, Ralph McGill has been used as a backup for all four positions and could beat out Hall.

Mike Holmes, the top draft choice in 1973, was injured in the pre-season schedule and missed the entire campaign. He figures to back up at cornerback this year.

Nolan's chief responsibility, it seems, is to realign the starting positions. He has the Spurrier-Reed choice at quarterback. He must somehow unravel the running backs and come up with two who start. (To this end, Vic Washington is an almost certain regular unless hurt. He was the team's leader with 534 yards gained last season.) Add to this the age of offensive lineman Rohde (36) and such defensive personnel as Johnson, Wilcox and Phillips.

The kicking game is good—Bruce Gossett is the placekicker, young Tom Wit-tum the 43.7-yard punter.

But it all comes back to Spurrier. He holds the answers to almost every question this team poses for 1974. If he makes it, the team is poised and experienced. If he doesn't, cracks will widen and games will be lost.

1973 RECORD (5-9)

SCORING

INTERCEPTIONS

13 Miami	21	20 Detroit	30
36 Denver	34	9 Washington	33
20 Los Angeles	40	13 Los Angeles	31
13 Atlanta	9	20 Green Bay	6
13 Minnesota	17	38 Philadelphia	28
40 New Orleans	0	10 New Orleans	16
3 Atlanta	17	14 Pittsburgh	37

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Gossett	0	26	26	104
V. Wash'ton	8	0	0	48
Kwalick	5	0	0	30
Hall	2	0	0	12
Spurrier	2	0	0	12
G. Wash'ton	2	0	0	12
**Willard	2	0	0	12

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Taylor	6	30	0	22	5.0
Johnson	4	46	0	30	11.5
Wilcox	2	14	0	10	7.0

SYMBOLS

- *—Retired
- **—Traded
- †—Conference leader
- Combined New Orleans-San Francisco record

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
V. Wash'ton	151	534	8	25	3.5
**Willard	83	366	1	33	4.4
*Thomas	56	259	1	16	4.6
Cunningham	44	165	1	12	3.8
Schreiber	42	163	0	13	3.9

Wittum

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
Wittum	79	3455†	62	43.7†

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Taylor	15	207	0	61	13.8†
McGill	22	186	0	54	8.5

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Kwalick	47	729	5	48	15.5
G. Wash'ton	37	606	2	58	16.4
*Abramowicz	37	460	1	54	12.4
V. Wash'ton	33	238	0	20	7.2
**Willard	22	160	1	26	7.3

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
V. Wash'ton	24	549	0	38	22.9
McGill	17	374	0	43	22.0

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
Spurrier	157	83	882	58	4	7	52.9
*Brodie	194	98	1126	66	3	12	50.5

OFFENSE

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
QUARTERBACKS					
Spurrier, Steve	6-2	200	29	8	Florida
Reed, Joe	6-1	192	26	3	Mississippi State

RUNNING BACKS					
Washington, Vic	5-11	194	27	4	Wyoming
Schreiber, Larry	6-0	209	26	4	Tennessee Tech
Cunningham, Doug	6-0	195	29	8	Mississippi
Jackson, Wilbur	6-1	205	23	1	Alabama
Williams, Del	6-1	197	23	1	Kansas
Atkins, Dave	6-1	194	25	2	Texas-El Paso
Jackson, Randy	6-0	220	25	3	Wichita State
Johnson, Sammy	6-1	217	21	1	North Carolina

RECEIVERS					
Abramowicz, Dan (W)	6-1	195	29	8	Xavier (Ohio)
Washington, Gene (W)	6-2	185	27	6	Stanford
*Kwalick, Ted (T)	6-4	226	27	6	Penn State
Beasley, Terry (W)	5-10	182	24	2	Auburn
*Witcher, Dick (T)	6-3	210	29	9	UCLA
*Isenbarger, John (W)	6-3	196	27	5	Indiana
Fahnhorst, Keith (T)	6-6	254	22	1	Minnesota

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN					
Banaszek, Cas (T)	6-3	256	28	7	Northwestern
Rohde, Len (T)	6-4	248	36	15	Utah State
Beisler, Randy (G)	6-5	244	29	9	Indiana
Peoples, Woody (G)	6-2	250	31	7	Grambling
Blue, Forrest (C)	6-5	261	29	7	Auburn
Watson, John (T-G-C)	6-4	253	25	4	Oklahoma
Hardy, Edgar (G)	6-4	242	23	2	Jackson State
Barrett, Jean (C-T)	6-6	254	23	2	Tulsa

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS					
Gossett, Bruce (Pk)	6-1	227	32	11	Richmond
Wittum, Tom (P)	6-1	190	24	2	Northern Illinois

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

FRONT LINEMEN					
Hardman, Cedrick (E)	6-4	251	25	5	North Texas State
Hart, Tommy (E)	6-4	249	29	7	Morris Brown
Krueger, Rolf (T)	6-4	253	26	6	Texas A&M
Hoskins, Bob (T)	6-4	251	29	5	Wichita State
Belk, Bill (E)	6-4	242	28	7	Md.-Eastern Shore
Sandifer, Bill (T)	6-6	278	22	1	UCLA
Raines, Mike (T)	6-6	255	21	1	Alabama
Hindman, Stan (T)	6-3	233	30	7	Mississippi

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS					
Wilcox, Dave (O)	6-3	234	31	11	Oregon
Harper, Willie (O)	6-2	215	24	2	Nebraska
Nunley, Frank (M)	6-2	229	28	8	Michigan
Vanderbundt, Skip (M)	6-3	224	27	6	Oregon State
*Sniadecki, Jim (M)	6-2	228	27	6	Indiana
Hunt, Charlie (O)	6-2	212	23	2	Florida State
Fulk, Mike (O)	6-3	229	23	1	Indiana

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS					
Johnson, Jimmy	6-2	188	36	14	UCLA
Taylor, Bruce	6-0	180	26	5	Boston University
Holmes, Mike	6-1	181	24	1	Texas Southern

SAFETIES

Phillips, Mel (S)	6-2	191	32	9	North Carolina A&T
Hall, Windlan (W-S)	5-11	175	24	3	Arizona State
McGill, Ralph (W)	5-11	186	24	3	Tulsa

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Spurrier hasn't been able to hold the job in previous opportunities. Reed is unpredictable. PERF. QT.: 4.

Washington, the team's best back, has speed, power, is a fine pass catcher and adequate blocker. Ken Willard's position is up for grabs after his trade. Schreiber, coming off knee surgery, may not be the answer even if he's healthy. Wilbur Jackson, Williams and Johnson are highly regarded rookies who'll get chances all summer. Cunningham and Atkins are just spares. Randy Jackson, who looks like a blocking back only, deserves consideration because of that talent. There are too many question marks here. PERF. QT.: 4.

Abramowicz is able to get free without great speed, because he has plenty of savvy. Washington is feared for his breakaway ability, sure hands. Kwalick, one of the top tight ends, is a WFL jumper. Still, he'll start. Beasley missed the entire '73 season with an ankle injury. Witcher, a capable fill-in, and Isenbarger, the team's versatile sub, are other WFL signees. Fahnhorst may also get a trial at offensive tackle. PERF. QT.: 3.

This is one of the league's best lines, assuming Rohde doesn't feel his age. Beisler and Peoples are solid guards. Banaszek, somewhat injured last year, is a good one. Blue is a quality center, and with Watson, Hardy and Barrett, the depth is more than adequate. Peoples and Blue are the most consistent performers here, with Rohde's long experience an advantage—unless the years suddenly catch up with him. Watson is the most intriguing of the reserves; he could get Rohde's or Banaszek's job. PERF. QT.: 2.

Gossett is a superb placekicker. Wittum earned plaudits as a rookie punter. The kicking game is as good as any. PERF. QT.: 1.

Charlie Krueger has retired, which seems to give his job to younger brother Rolf. Hart and Hardman are outstanding ends, with Belk a more-than-capable reserve who would be a starter on most teams. Hoskins showed strength and surprising speed as a regular and should retain his status despite a serious illness he contracted. If Krueger can't do the job (and he hasn't until now), huge rookie Sandifer could be thrust into a starting berth. Hindman is back from retirement. Raines could be a sleeper. PERF. QT.: 3.

Wilcox is All-Pro caliber and has been for years. But there are troubles elsewhere. Harper was a rookie starter and lacks size. Vanderbundt and Nunley have been starters and may again be. Sniadecki, a WFL signee, is just not adequate. Hunt is almost no factor here but is a good special teams man. The retirement of Ed Beard will hurt, unless either Vanderbundt or Nunley regain their former abilities. Fulk could have a future. PERF. QT.: 3.

Johnson has been one of the very best—and may still be despite his years. Taylor has been a continuing disappointment. Holmes, the No. 1 draft in 1973, will push him hard. PERF. QT.: 3.

Phillips played well; he's a proven competitor. Hall has good range but he'll have his hands full fighting off McGill. Neither one is Pro Bowl material, however. PERF. QT.: 3.

\$500 PRIZE CAN BE YOURS!

The CORD SPORTFACTS Series of magazines offers you a golden opportunity to display your sports knowledge and win a \$500 prize—a United States Savings Bond. Just fill out the Sportfacts Triangle at the right and you can win it all! Not only may you win this prize, but you get a chance to test your pro football knowledge against the experts'. And besides, you'd be trying to figure out the answers to the SPORTFACTS Triangle's questions for yourself and your friends—for free. So try your hand—and your football knowledge—against fellow fans, and the \$500 prize can be yours! Remember to read the rules below before completing the SPORTFACTS Triangle. Remember, too, that there's no hurry. You don't have to enter this contest until the races for team and individual honors have taken shape. All entries must be postmarked no later than midnight, Dec. 9, 1974. And the winner??? The \$500-prize SPORTFACTS fan will be notified by telegram within 90 days of the time that the correct answer to the SPORTFACTS Triangle's questions become official.

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for 1974

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for 1974

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Super Bowl winner

National
Conference
Champion

National Conference
Championship
Runner-up

American
Conference
Champion

American Conference
Championship
Runner-up

Name the two other National Conference Playoff
teams—the two teams eliminated in the
National Conference Divisional Playoffs

Name the two other American Conference Playoff
teams—the two teams eliminated in the
American Conference Divisional Playoffs

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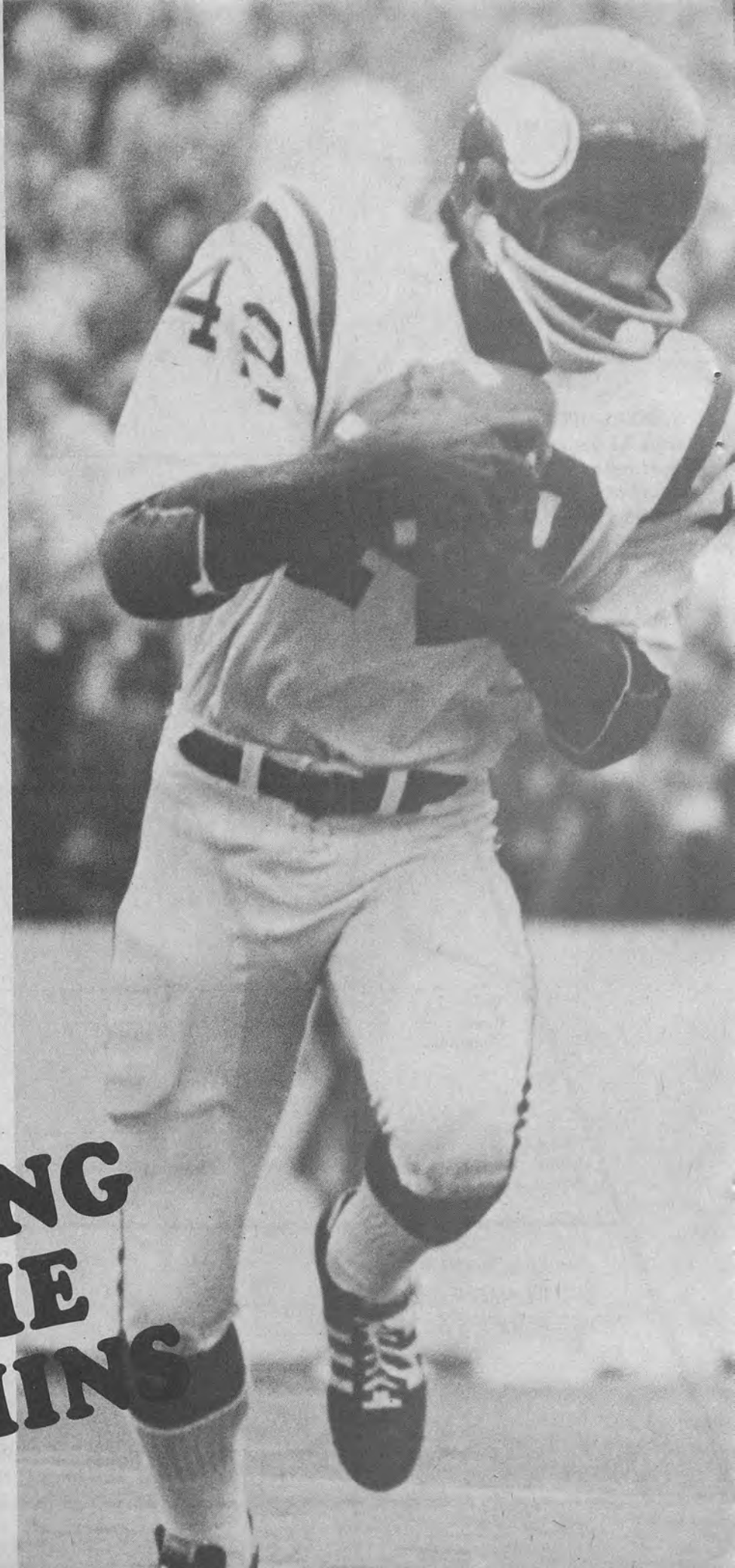
Minnesota's star wide receiver hopes that Miami makes it to the Super Bowl again—to face the Vikings

I'm really rooting for the Miami Dolphins this season, not because they have suddenly become my idols but because we want another chance at them in the Super Bowl.

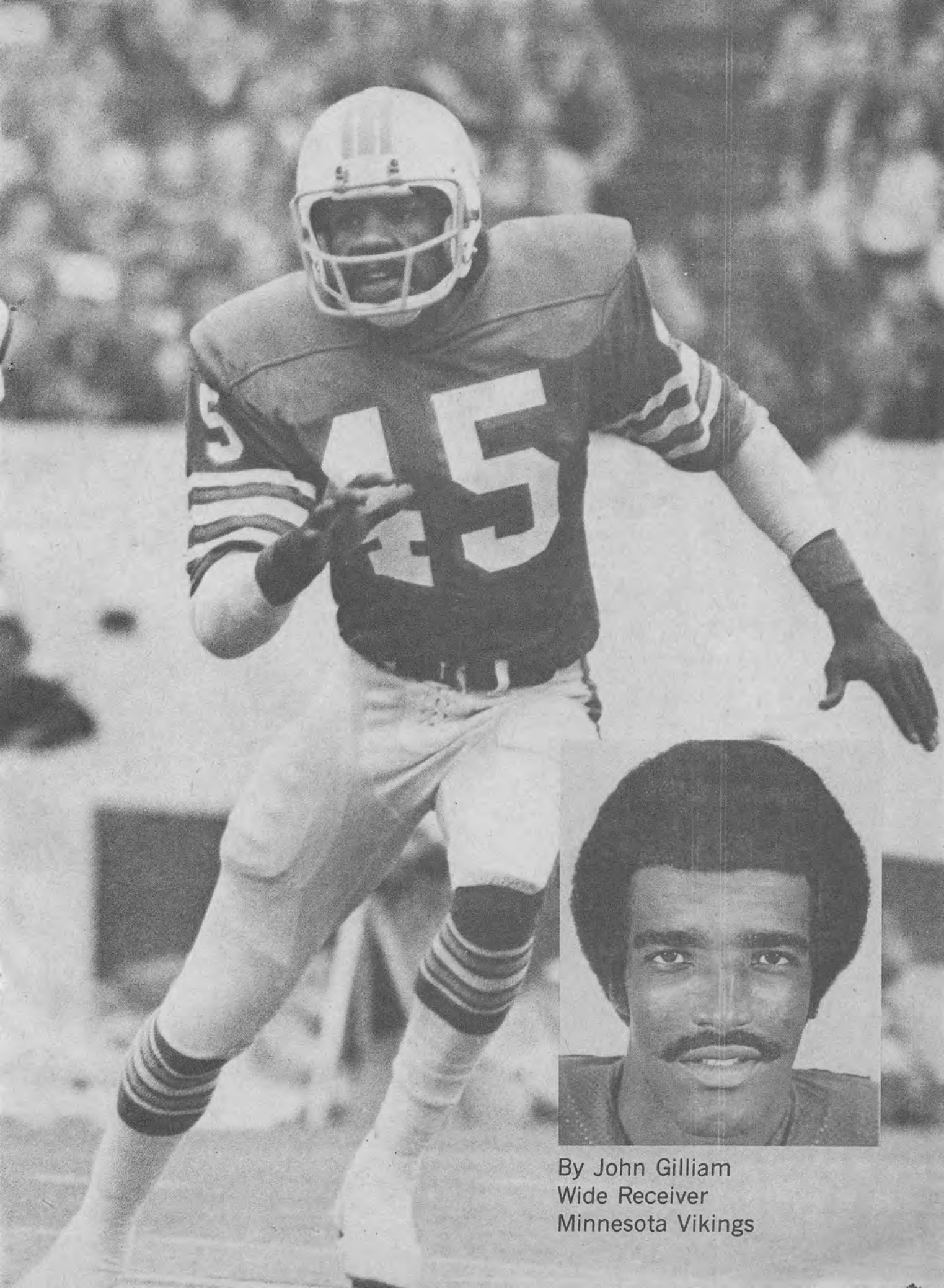
Right, I think my team, the Minnesota Vikings, can get back there, and as sweet as it would be to finally win a Super Bowl, it would be even nicer if it's Miami we can beat.

The Dolphins did a job on us last year, a perfect job. They were hot, and everything they tried worked just beautifully. But they weren't that much better than us, and they're not now, and it's up to us to prove it.

Miami ran the ball on us, which we knew they would do. But they were able to do it, and as a result they controlled the tempo of the game. You can't put your offense to work when it's sitting on the bench, and you can't use all your



**ROOTING
FOR THE
DOLPHINS**



By John Gilliam
Wide Receiver
Minnesota Vikings



Gilliam credits a great deal of the Vikings' 1973 success to rookie sensation Chuck Foreman, 44, left, and star quarterback Fran Tarkenton, right.

plays—plays you know will work—if you're not on the field.

We just weren't in the game long enough—our offense, I mean. We didn't have many plays, and we didn't have much time. And once they got ahead of us, they were able to eat up the clock and we had to try to catch up. It's hard to do that when the other defense knows what your options are. We couldn't set anything up, or take our time, because we just didn't have much time.

Listen, I don't mean to downgrade the Dolphins. They are a fine, fine team. But we knew all about their off-tackle plays and their sweeps and those medium-range passes. We knew about them, but we didn't stop them. Plays don't win games, players do, and when you get to the Super Bowl it's kind of stupid to change anything that got you there. So nothing they did surprised us. They just executed better than we did.

In a way, they had the kind of game against us that we had against Dallas to win the NFC championship. We were hot then. All the plays worked. All the breaks came our way. [Bob] Griese called a perfect, beautiful game, and his runners were hot. His blockers did their job, everything worked and we got blown out.

That happens far more often than you would think in a game between two evenly matched teams. One gets ahead, gets a few good plays, and the other has to press. When you change your game plan, more often than not you do it because you're trailing. And you lose.

But as hot as Miami was against us that Sunday, we could have played them the day before or the day after and it would have been our turn. I just don't think they're that much better than we are, and I want another chance to prove it.

I didn't even feel real bad after that game. They played it perfectly, and you have to realize nothing we did that day would have been able to change matters. If we lost a really close game, or one of those games when we did everything right but managed to lose, I'd have felt a whole lot worse. They came right at us and we didn't stop them fast enough. That's all there was to it.

About our chances to get back this year: I think they're great. Sure, we play

continued on page 92



1974 PRO FOOTBALL

FIRST WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 15

_____ Baltimore at Pittsburgh _____
_____ Dallas at Atlanta _____
_____ Cleveland at Cincinnati _____
_____ Detroit at Chicago _____
_____ Los Angeles at Denver _____
_____ Miami at New England _____
_____ Minnesota at Green Bay _____
_____ New York Jets at Kansas City _____
_____ Philadelphia at St. Louis _____
_____ San Diego at Houston _____
_____ San Francisco at New Orleans _____
_____ Washington at New York Giants _____

Monday, Sept. 16

_____ Oakland at Buffalo _____

SECOND WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 22

_____ Green Bay at Baltimore _____
_____ Houston at Cleveland _____
_____ Kansas City at Oakland _____
_____ Miami at Buffalo _____
_____ Minnesota at Detroit _____
_____ New England at New York
Giants _____
_____ New Orleans at Los Angeles _____
_____ New York Jets at Chicago _____
_____ Pittsburgh at Denver _____
_____ St. Louis at Washington _____
_____ San Diego at Cincinnati _____
_____ San Francisco at Atlanta _____

Monday, Sept. 23

_____ Dallas at Philadelphia _____

THIRD WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 29

_____ Atlanta at New Orleans _____
_____ Baltimore at Philadelphia _____
_____ Chicago at Minnesota _____
_____ Cincinnati at San Francisco _____
_____ Cleveland at St. Louis _____
_____ Detroit vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee _____
_____ Kansas City at Houston _____
_____ Los Angeles at New England _____
_____ Miami at San Diego _____
_____ New York Giants at Dallas _____
_____ New York Jets at Buffalo _____
_____ Oakland at Pittsburgh _____

Monday, Sept. 30

_____ Denver at Washington _____

FOURTH WEEK

Sunday, Oct. 6

_____ Atlanta at New York Giants _____
_____ Baltimore at New England _____
_____ Buffalo at Green Bay _____
_____ Denver at Kansas City _____
_____ Detroit at Los Angeles _____
_____ Minnesota at Dallas _____
_____ New Orleans at Chicago _____
_____ Oakland at Cleveland _____
_____ Philadelphia at San Diego _____
_____ Pittsburgh at Houston _____
_____ St. Louis at San Francisco _____
_____ Washington at Cincinnati _____

Monday, Oct. 7

_____ New York Jets at Miami _____

FIFTH WEEK

Sunday, Oct. 13

_____ Buffalo at Baltimore _____
_____ Chicago at Atlanta _____
_____ Cincinnati at Cleveland _____
_____ Dallas at St. Louis _____
_____ Houston at Minnesota _____
_____ Los Angeles vs. Green Bay at
Milwaukee _____
_____ Miami at Washington _____
_____ New England at New York Jets _____
_____ New Orleans at Denver _____
_____ New York Giants at Phila-
delphia _____
_____ Pittsburgh at Kansas City _____
_____ San Diego at Oakland _____

Monday, Oct. 14

_____ San Francisco at Detroit _____

SIXTH WEEK

Sunday, Oct. 20

_____ Baltimore at New York Jets _____
_____ Cincinnati at Oakland _____
_____ Cleveland at Pittsburgh _____
_____ Detroit at Minnesota _____
_____ Kansas City at Miami _____
_____ New England at Buffalo _____
_____ New Orleans at Atlanta _____
_____ New York Giants at Washington _____
_____ Philadelphia at Dallas _____
_____ St. Louis at Houston _____
_____ San Diego at Denver _____
_____ San Francisco at Los Angeles _____

Monday, Oct. 21

_____ Green Bay at Chicago _____

SEVENTH WEEK

Sunday, Oct. 27

_____ Baltimore at Miami _____
_____ Chicago at Buffalo _____
_____ Dallas at New York Giants _____
_____ Denver at Cleveland _____
_____ Green Bay at Detroit _____
_____ Houston at Cincinnati _____
_____ Kansas City at San Diego _____
_____ Los Angeles at New York Jets _____
_____ New England at Minnesota _____
_____ Oakland at San Francisco _____
_____ Philadelphia at New Orleans _____
_____ Washington at St. Louis _____

Monday, Oct. 28

_____ Atlanta at Pittsburgh _____

EIGHTH WEEK

Sunday, Nov. 3

_____ Atlanta at Miami _____
_____ Buffalo at New England _____
_____ Cincinnati at Baltimore _____
_____ Cleveland at San Diego _____
_____ Houston at New York Jets _____
_____ Minnesota at Chicago _____
_____ New Orleans at Detroit _____
_____ New York Giants at Kansas City _____
_____ Oakland at Denver _____
_____ Philadelphia at Pittsburgh _____
_____ St. Louis at Dallas _____
_____ Washington at Green Bay _____

Monday, Nov. 4

_____ Los Angeles at San Francisco _____

NINTH WEEK

Sunday, Nov. 10

_____ Atlanta at Los Angeles _____
_____ Chicago vs. Green Bay at Mil-
waukee _____
_____ Cleveland at New England _____
_____ Denver at Baltimore _____
_____ Detroit at Oakland _____
_____ Houston at Buffalo _____
_____ Miami at New Orleans _____
_____ New York Jets at New York
Giants _____
_____ Pittsburgh at Cincinnati _____
_____ San Diego at Kansas City _____
_____ San Francisco at Dallas _____
_____ Washington at Philadelphia _____

Monday, Nov. 11

_____ Minnesota at St. Louis _____

SCHEDULE-SCORECARD

TENTH WEEK

Sunday, Nov. 17

_____ Baltimore at Atlanta _____
 _____ Buffalo at Miami _____
 _____ Cincinnati at Houston _____
 _____ Dallas at Washington _____
 _____ Green Bay at Minnesota _____
 _____ Los Angeles at New Orleans _____
 _____ New York Giants at Detroit _____
 _____ New York Jets at New England _____
 _____ Oakland at San Diego _____
 _____ Pittsburgh at Cleveland _____
 _____ St. Louis at Philadelphia _____
 _____ San Francisco at Chicago _____

Monday, Nov. 18

_____ Kansas City at Denver _____

ELEVENTH WEEK

Sunday, Nov. 24

_____ Atlanta at San Francisco _____
 _____ Buffalo at Cleveland _____
 _____ Chicago at Detroit _____
 _____ Dallas at Houston _____
 _____ Denver at Oakland _____
 _____ Kansas City at Cincinnati _____
 _____ Miami at New York Jets _____
 _____ Minnesota at Los Angeles _____
 _____ New England at Baltimore _____
 _____ Philadelphia at Washington _____
 _____ St. Louis at New York Giants _____
 _____ San Diego at Green Bay _____

Monday, Nov. 25

_____ Pittsburgh at New Orleans _____

TWELFTH WEEK

Thursday, Nov. 28

_____ Denver at Detroit _____
 _____ Washington at Dallas _____

Sunday, Dec. 1

_____ Baltimore at Buffalo _____
 _____ Green Bay at Philadelphia _____
 _____ Houston at Pittsburgh _____
 _____ Kansas City at St. Louis _____
 _____ Los Angeles at Atlanta _____
 _____ New England at Oakland _____
 _____ New Orleans at Minnesota _____
 _____ New York Giants at Chicago _____
 _____ San Diego at New York Jets _____
 _____ San Francisco at Cleveland _____

Monday, Dec. 2

_____ Cincinnati at Miami _____

THIRTEENTH WEEK

Saturday, Dec. 7

_____ Atlanta at Minnesota _____
 _____ Cleveland at Dallas _____

Sunday, Dec. 8

_____ Buffalo at New York Jets _____
 _____ Chicago at San Diego _____
 _____ Detroit at Cincinnati _____
 _____ Green Bay at San Francisco _____
 _____ Houston at Denver _____
 _____ Miami at Baltimore _____
 _____ Oakland at Kansas City _____
 _____ Philadelphia at New York
 Giants _____
 _____ Pittsburgh at New England _____
 _____ St. Louis at New Orleans _____

Monday, Dec. 9

_____ Washington at Los Angeles _____

FOURTEENTH WEEK

Saturday, Dec. 14

_____ Cincinnati at Pittsburgh _____
 _____ Minnesota at Kansas City _____
 _____ Dallas at Oakland _____

Sunday, Dec. 15

_____ Buffalo at Los Angeles _____
 _____ Chicago at Washington _____
 _____ Cleveland at Houston _____
 _____ Denver at San Diego _____
 _____ Detroit at Philadelphia _____
 _____ Green Bay at Atlanta _____
 _____ New England at Miami _____
 _____ New Orleans at San Francisco _____
 _____ New York Giants at St. Louis _____
 _____ New York Jets at Baltimore _____



POST-SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

Saturday, Dec. 21

American Conference Divisional Playoff

_____ vs. _____

National Conference Divisional Playoff

_____ vs. _____

Sunday, Dec. 22

American Conference Divisional Playoff

_____ vs. _____

National Conference Divisional Playoff

_____ vs. _____

Sunday, Dec. 29

American Conference Championship Game

_____ vs. _____

National Conference Championship Game

_____ vs. _____

Sunday, Jan. 12

Super Bowl IX

_____ vs. _____







WHAT NEXT, O.J.?

O.J. Simpson still had a lot of sleep in his voice. He had arisen early after having flown 3,000 miles for his first serious workout in months.

"The 1974 football season," he was saying, "is going to be a vacation for me. Getting hit by Nick Buoniconti, Mike Curtis and cats like that may even seem like a pleasure.

"All I want is to settle in one place

O.J. broke the rushing mark set by Jim Brown in the season finale against the Jets.

We may never see another performance as spectacular as the season-long romp O.J. Simpson treated us to last year—but the Bills' star isn't done yet



Simpson's 2,003 yards came on 332 carries. He averaged an incredible six yards an attempt in '73 and scored 12 touchdowns. Among O.J.'s other records were 11 games in which he gained over 100 yards, most yards gained in one game, 250, and he helped his team to a new mark of 3,088 yards gained in a season.

where I don't have to be too many places at a certain time, make airplane schedules, have people meet me in limousines and live a hectic life."

The hectic life of O.J. Simpson began the day after the 1973 season, less than 24 hours after he had finished shattering Jim Brown's all-time record for yardage gained by a runner in a single National Football League season. That was the moment prophesied for him back in the late '60s, when he terrorized every college defense in America.

Here was the man, they said, who was going to break the Heisman Trophy jinx. This was the collegiate superstar who was going to be just as good—even better

—when he got into the pro ranks.

For three NFL seasons that prophecy sounded hollow. In 1972 it had some validity. In 1973 it reached full fruition.

In 1973, possibly the final year in the era of the running back, Simpson was virtually unstoppable. There was a celebration by the opposing defense if he failed to gain 100 or more yards against them. For a generation, the standard of excellence by which a ground gainer's season was measured was 1,000 yards. He changed that, doubling the spectacular target.

It all started on a September afternoon in Schaefer Stadium in Foxboro, Mass. The New England Patriots were



leading Simpson's Buffalo Bills in the first quarter of their opening game of the season. O.J. had started in reasonable fashion, a few yards gained here, a few yards there.

Then the call in the huddle was "sweep right." Reggie McKenzie, the tall, lithe guard, pulled out of the line and led the interference toward the right sideline. Simpson took the hand-off from quarterback Joe Ferguson and tucked in right behind McKenzie.

The guard pivoted a step beyond the mass of colliding bodies at the line of scrimmage and then belted an approaching cornerback. O.J. darted to the outside off McKenzie's block. Line-

backer Steve Kiner dove to make the tackle, but could not fasten onto Simpson's elusive hip. Tackle Dave Rowe rushed over to help out Kiner, but Simpson slid from both of them and blazed into the clear.

All of a sudden it was a foot race between him and two New England defensive backs. O. J. Simpson just doesn't lose foot races in the NFL. He was off on an 80-yard touchdown run.

The Bills had gone into the game with the idea of using Simpson as a decoy, allowing the Pats to swarm after him and then giving fullback Larry Watkins the brunt of the ball-carrying assignments on counter plays that would take him

against the flow of the pursuit which O.J. was sure to attract.

Sure enough, Watkins had an excellent day, rushing for more than 100 yards. But the "decoy" plan had to be abandoned because of the sheer magnificence of Simpson when he was given the ball.

By the time the afternoon ended he had 250 yards, the highest total ever compiled by a runner in a single NFL game. Willie Ellison held the previous record, 247 yards.

After one month of play in the regular season, the Bills were one of the featured conversation pieces of pro football. Losing had become a way of life for them

over the previous half-dozen years, but now they were tied with Miami for first place in the Eastern Division of the American Conference with four victories in their first five games.

Since 1966, no Buffalo team ever had won more than four games in an entire season!

"All I kept hearing was 'O.J., the one-man team,'" says Simpson. "I appreciate the compliments, but I wasn't a one-man team. I had been in Buffalo for four seasons before 1973 and we hadn't won then.

"I'm afraid that the stars get too much blame when a team loses and too much credit when it wins. There were a lot of other reasons for the Buffalo Bills' success last year other than my play."

Example No. 1 of what Simpson talks about was the fellow who finally gave O.J. the opportunity to run the way he did in his Southern California collegiate days—Coach Lou Saban.

Saban had coached the Buffalo club in the early and mid '60s, when the Bills knew the only success they ever had as a pro team. He inherited a young outfit with little discernible talent back in 1962. After losing his first five games that first year, his Bills finished with a rocket at their tail, winning seven and tying one of their last nine games.

In 1964 and '65 he won back-to-back championships in the American League, which later merged with the NFL. Then, a few days after his second title, he resigned to re-enter college coaching at the University of Maryland.

He came back to the pros a short time later, developed Floyd Little as a pro runner at Denver and, eventually, rejoined the Bills in 1972. Buffalo was the worst team in football at the time, winning only a single game the year before.

Saban's antidote was to construct a feasible running game around O.J. He drafted McKenzie that year and picked up Dave Foley, a big tackle who had been a bust as a No. 1 draft choice for the Jets. Foley was rehabilitated under Saban. Behind them and a makeshift offense, Simpson streaked to his first 1,000-plus season, 1,251 yards, and the ground-gaining championship of the NFL.

The Bills won only four games that year, but finished with a flash, knocking Detroit out of the playoffs with a tie and upsetting Super Bowl-bound Washington in the finale. It was the first time Buf-

falo had won the final game of the season since Saban's first administration in Buffalo and it gave the young Bills a future to ponder.

Saban again drafted for linemen, picking Paul Seymour of Michigan and Joe DeLamielleure of Michigan State in the first round. He traded for Mike Montler of New England and converted him from a slow guard to a powerful, efficient center.

He patiently waited for them to develop during the exhibition season. Buffalo lost all six games, but Seymour was shifted to tight end where he started and Joe D. won the first-string job at guard.

By the time the season began, with the New England game approaching, Saban had what he wanted: a suitable accompaniment for Simpson's unique skills.

Game by game the team matured and progressed. The gauge was the first Monday night TV game ever played by the Bills. It was against Kansas City, a team with a veteran, rugged defense and a team that had never been defeated on the Monday night spectacular.

But the difference in this Simpson and this Buffalo team was evident almost immediately. The Chiefs fumbled on their first possession and, after recovering on the KC 15, the Bills went after that veteran defense methodically and primitively. It was a drive-blocking, nose-to-nose confrontation, which Buffalo won. Simpson blew into the end zone in a flash.

Minutes later, on KC's second possession, middle linebacker Jim Cheyunki intercepted a Lenny Dawson pass and returned it to the KC 4-yard line. The Bills' attackers went after their foes just as they had earlier, and O.J. juiced past Curley Culp, the quick KC tackle, for his second touchdown.

The Bills then played the type of game that took them to within an eyelash of a playoff spot in '73—the conservative, close-to-the-vest ball-control offense by which they protected a lead. It was a classic steal from their Miami rivals, but it worked.

"How many times did the Juice carry tonight?" asked Saban, after the Bills had tucked away a 23-14 victory. The answer was that Simpson had set another NFL record, 39 carries in one game, one more than the old standard set by Harry Newman of Detroit back in 1935.

"Well, you could never say we don't

use him enough," grinned Coach Saban.

Use of the Juice put the Bills back in the playoff picture after they had slumped to the .500 level with three straight losses at mid-season. But the use of Simpson had a twist. Saban had handcuffed his starting quarterback, rookie Joe Ferguson, to reduce his margin of error to the barest minimum. The Bills put the ball into the air only out of complete necessity.

Eventually, the opposing defenses caught on. They overplayed the Buffalo running game and beat the Bills. But when Saban loosened the handcuffs, Simpson was the beneficiary since the opposition then had to show some respect for Fergy's arm.

By the time the Patriots paid a visit to Buffalo on the second-to-last Sunday of the season, the Bills were in the thick of the playoff race and Simpson was 280 yards away from Jim Brown's historic NFL rushing record, 1,863 yards set in 1963.

But by the time O.J. had donned his pads and came out to inspect the AstroTurf in brand-new Rich Stadium, slushy snow was falling steadily. "Oh, no!" anguished Simpson. "All I wanted was an even chance."

As it turned out, it was the Pats who had less than an even chance. O.J. didn't get to carry the ball until late in the first quarter, and then he lost three yards. But everything after that came up roses.

The crusher came midway through the third quarter when the Bills ran their deadly sweep right. O.J. cut back against the flow of the pursuit, darted back along the sidelines, back to the center of the field again and blazed 71 yards. That was followed by a 28-yard run and one of 27.

When the game was over the Bills had a 37-13 victory, Simpson a 219-yard day and he stood just 61 yards away from Brown's record.

The final game of the season in New York was played in weather similar to that of the New England game, but O.J. performed on the slippery surface like Peggy Fleming.

By the middle of the first quarter he had broken Brown's record. By the middle of the fourth quarter he had reached Nirvana for a pro runner—2,003 yards.

This season the NFL rules have been changed to, in Simpson's words, "give the game back to the passers."

We may never see another year of the runner like the one O.J. Simpson experienced in 1973.





AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

The 13 teams that make up the AFC are described on the following pages in a comprehensive reference guide that will aid you as you follow your favorite club through the 1974 season. Our coverage of each team includes a detailed analysis, vital statistics from the previous year, a detailed personnel chart that lists veterans and most promising rookies in each position, and Sportfacts Performance Quotients. In these we rate every unit on offense and defense—quarterbacks, running backs, receivers, linemen, kickers, linebackers, cornerbacks and safeties—on a scale of 1 to 5. A unit that's best or tied for best in the league merits a 1; 2 equals excellent; 3 is good; 4 is fair; and 5 is poor. The teams are shown in the order in which we predict they will finish the season. The winning team in each division of course qualifies for the playoffs. The team we predict will fill the wild-card slot is the Cincinnati Bengals. And who will win the conference title and a trip to the Super Bowl? We believe this year's AFC representative to the world championship game will again be the Miami Dolphins.

MIAMI DOLPHINS



Larry Csonka swoops low to avoid a Minnesota tackler.

Less than 24 hours after the Dolphins won their second straight World Championship last January, some Miamians were speculating that "this one brief moment of Camelot" would soon evaporate.

They saw ominous signs. The Dolphins weren't even out of their pads when they were talking of holdouts, players moving to other teams and the promise of what the World Football League might hold, financially, for them.

Then, late in March, things started to happen.

The bombshell came in Toronto one Sunday when the Toronto Northmen (later to become the Memphis Southmen) of the WFL signed All-Pro wide receiver Paul Warfield, running back Jim Kiick and the Super Bowl hero, fullback Larry Csonka—an enormous portion of the Miami offense.

What followed was a polarization of Miami's fans and organization. Bumper stickers started appearing that demanded, "Bench Csonka, Kiick and Warfield," although other fans understood that the three players had received offers they couldn't turn down.

The polarization came to a head late last spring when Coach Don Shula and Club President Joe Robbie became involved in an ugly public spat at a Dolphins' award banquet.

Robbie exploded at Shula for arriving late at the dais and Shula, embarrassed at

being rebuked publicly, threatened to knock Robbie on his expletive deleted.

But, despite all the bickering, the Dolphins have more than enough tools to win everything again if they are hungry enough.

The Dolphins remain in possession of the quarterback many NFL watchers consider the best in the business, Bob Griese. With Griese operating behind one of the best offensive lines in the league, there are all sorts of ways for the Dolphins to score.

Mercury Morris may rank behind O.J. Simpson as the league's outstanding outside runner. Shula's task is to uncover a partner for him once Csonka leaves. Ben Malone, the smallish but blocky fullback from Arizona State, may be tried in the Csonka spot, but his size is questionable for this role.

Marlin Briscoe is Warfield's skillful partner. With Ron Sellers flirting with the WFL, Bo Rather may get a lot more work, and there is always reliable Howard Twilley.

The last Super Bowl team included a pronounced change in the starting lineup, with Jim Mandich moving ahead of veteran Marv Fleming at tight end. Mandich is a more dangerous pass receiver than Marv.

The offensive line is, of course, superb. Bob Kuechenberg outplayed his more illustrious guard partner, Larry Little, last year but Little could come right back to

AFC East Prediction: First

the top this time. He was a millimeter away from it in '73. Tackle Wayne Moore made the Pro Bowl and Jim Langer is now regarded by many experts as the NFL's best center.

Garó Yepremian is ideal for the new placekicking requirements in the NFL and Larry Seiple is an accurate punter who gets good hang time.

The Miami defense is good enough to win even with the offense in turmoil.

Ends Bill Stanfill and Vern Den Herder, along with tackle Manny Fernandez, belong in the front rank in pro football. Tackle Bob Heinz is a sound player but eventually he may be challenged by this year's No. 1 draftee, Don Reese of Jackson State. And then there is the unique skill of Bob Matheson, the man who makes the "53" defense work in his role as an end-linebacker.

Nick Buoniconti, despite his advancing age, looked the equal of any middle linebacker last year. But to safeguard against the day Nick packs it in, Shula started developing young Bruce Bannon, the former Penn State All-America he picked up on waivers from the Jets.

Doug Swift and Mike Kolen are outside linebackers of quality, players who are firmly disciplined in their protection of assigned areas.

The corners are well protected with Tim Foley and Curtis Johnson starting, backed up by the well-schooled Lloyd Mumphord. The Dolphins also drafted Jeris White of Hawaii, considered the best cornerback in college ball this year.

Dick Anderson and Jake Scott are the *ne-plus-ultra* of pro safeties. Both are popular All-Pro choices.

Quality abounds on this team, and if a veteran stumbles or indicates that his thirst for victory has been satisfied by the recent past performance of the Dolphins, Shula can work in some people he kept on last year's taxi squad, players like center Chuck Bradley and quarterback Don Strock. In addition, reserves of the caliber of safety Charles Babb, linebacker Larry Ball and guard Ed Newman are ready to play more.

1973 RECORD (15-2)

21 San Francisco	13	14 Dallas	7
7 Oakland	12	30 Pittsburgh	26
44 New England	23	3 Baltimore	16
31 New York Jets	3	34 Detroit	7
17 Cleveland	9	(Playoff)	
27 Buffalo	6	34 Cincinnati	16
30 New England	14	(AFC Championship)	
24 New York Jets	14	27 Oakland	10
44 Baltimore	0	(Super Bowl)	
17 Buffalo	0	24 Minnesota	7

SYMBOLS †—Conference leader
 ††—Tied for conference lead
 •—Combined Baltimore-Miami record

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
Griese	218	116	1422	46	17	8	53.2
Morrall	38	17	253	53	0	4	44.7

SCORING

	Tds	PATs	FGs	Total
Anderson	0	38	25	113
Warfield	11	0	0	66
Morris	10	0	0	60
Csonka	5	0	0	30
Mandich	4	0	0	24

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Anderson	8††	163	2†	38	20.4
Scott	4	71	0	29	17.8
Kolen	2	54	0	29	27.0
Foley	2	22	0	15	11.0
Johnson	2	19	0	17	9.5

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Csonka	219	1003	5	25	4.6
Morris	149	954	10	70	6.4†
Kick	76	257	0	32	3.4
Nottingham	52	252	1	30	4.8
Leigh	22	134	1	34	6.1

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
Seiple	48	2031	57	42.3

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Scott	22	266	0	33	12.1
Leigh	9	64	0	26	7.1
Anderson	6	52	0	27	8.7

RECEIVING

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Briscoe	30	447	2	53	14.9
Warfield	29	514	11†	45	17.7
Kick	27	208	0	22	7.7
Mandich	24	302	4	28	12.6

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Morris	11	242	0	29	22.0
Leigh	9	251	0	51	27.9

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Griese, Bob	6-1	190	29	8	Purdue
Morrall, Earl	6-2	210	40	19	Michigan State
Strock, Don	6-5	205	23	1	Virginia Tech

RUNNING BACKS

*Csonka, Larry	6-2	237	27	7	Syracuse
Morris, Mercury	5-10	192	27	6	West Texas State
*Kick, Jim	5-11	214	28	7	Wyoming
Leigh, Charles	5-11	206	28	6	None
Malone, Ben	5-10	192	22	1	Arizona State
Nottingham, Don	5-10	210	25	4	Kent State

RECEIVERS

*Warfield, Paul (W)	6-0	188	31	11	Ohio State
Briscoe, Marlin (W)	5-11	175	28	7	Omaha
Mandich, Jim (T)	6-2	224	26	5	Michigan
Twilley, Howard (W)	5-10	185	30	9	Tulsa
Fleming, Marv (T)	6-4	230	32	12	Utah
Sellers, Ron (W)	6-4	204	27	6	Florida State
Rather, Bo (W)	6-1	182	23	2	Michigan
Tillman, Andre (T)	6-5	230	22	1	Texas Tech
Moore, Nat (W)	5-10	181	22	1	Florida

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

Moore, Wayne (T)	6-6	265	28	5	Lamar Tech
Evans, Norm (T)	6-5	250	31	10	TCU
Little, Larry (G)	6-1	265	28	8	Bethune-Cookman
Kuechenberg, Bob (G)	6-2	252	26	5	Notre Dame
Langer, Jim (C)	6-2	253	26	5	South Dakota State
Crusan, Doug (T)	6-4	250	28	7	Indiana
Newman, Ed (G)	6-2	245	23	2	Duke
Bradley, Chuck (C)	6-6	245	23	1	Oregon

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

Yepremian, Garo (Pk)	5-8	175	30	8	None
Seiple, Larry (P)	6-0	214	29	8	Kentucky

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

Stanfill, Bill (E)	6-5	252	27	6	Georgia
Den Herder, Vern (E)	6-6	252	25	4	Central (Iowa)
Fernandez, Manny (T)	6-2	250	28	7	Utah
Heinz, Bob (T-E)	6-6	265	27	6	Pacific
Moore, Maulty (T)	6-5	265	28	3	Bethune-Cookman
Reese, Donald (E)	6-6	253	22	1	Jackson State
Woods, Larry (T)	6-6	260	26	4	Tennessee State

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

Kolen, Mike (O)	6-2	222	26	5	Auburn
Swift, Doug (O)	6-3	226	26	5	Amherst
Buoniconiti, Nick (M)	5-11	220	33	13	Notre Dame
Bannon, Bruce (M)	6-3	225	23	2	Penn State
Matheson, Bob (O-M)	6-4	235	29	8	Duke
Ball, Larry (O)	6-6	235	25	3	Louisville

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

Foley, Tim	6-0	194	25	5	Purdue
Johnson, Curtis	6-1	196	26	5	Toledo
Mumphord, Lloyd	5-10	176	27	6	Texas Southern
White, Jeris	5-11	183	21	1	Hawaii

SAFETIES

Anderson, Dick (S)	6-2	196	28	7	Colorado
Scott, Jake (W)	6-0	188	290	5	Georgia
Babb, Charles (W-S)	6-0	190	24	3	Memphis State

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Griese is the consummate new-breed surgeon. Intelligent and resourceful, he slices defenses with precision. Strock is in the wings awaiting amazing Earl's final curtain call. PERF. QT.: 1.

This is the last Miami hurrah for Csonka and Kick. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid helped fire the WFL's shot heard 'round the football world. Zonk, the ultimate fullback, epitomizes the Dolphins' stifling ball control. Explosive Mercury is the perfect complement. Kick is due for a phase out, meaning more labor for Leigh, Nottingham. Malone is in for an accelerated course. PERF. QT.: 1.

Though unleashed selectively, this arsenal has nuclear capability. WFL-bound Warfield is pre-eminent at his trade—a threat for six points at any instant. Briscoe makes some miraculous grabs. Twilley, who used to be ahead of Marlin, is methodical—and loves to skewer the opposition with do-or-die receptions. Mandich catches much better than Fleming but doesn't block as well. Sellers is delicate but dangerous. Rather has a world of promise and will get more work. Second-round pick Tillman and third-rounder Moore will be brought along slowly. PERF. QT.: 1.

This is the guts of the Miami war machine. These crisply executing mastodons matter-of-factly devoured Minnesota's Purple People Eaters in the Super Bowl after digesting every other front four they were served. Langer is without equal. Ditto Little and Kuechenberg. They're alert guardians of Griese and pave super highways to run on. Moore merited the Pro Bowl. And nobody slaves harder than Evans. Crusan is an ex-starter. Newman is a special teams honor student. Bradley has super potential. PERF. QT.: 1.

Rising to the occasion is a trademark of both men. Opponents' faint hopes often disintegrate following swings of their legs. PERF. QT.: 2.

Though pliable on occasion, this durable material is shatterproof. Stanfill and Den Herder are merciless pillagers—among the best set of ends in the business. Fernandez, a fiery-eyed executioner, roams the inside with abandon. His big sidekick Heinz is more conservative and almost as unyielding. Reese, the first draft choice, will have to do his developing gradually on the practice field. Moore and Woods are hefty handymen with value. PERF. QT.: 2.

When these assassins make a hit, it's painful. Nick, the aging godfather, is still the NFL's best combination of brains and combativeness. His button men, Kolen and Swift, anticipate well and are never out of position. Matheson is the man for whom the impregnable "53" defense is named. Bannon, exiled by the Jets, is being groomed to succeed Nick. Ball can roll—if he gets to play. PERF. QT.: 1.

This is perhaps the least-familiar outpost in the No-Name Defense. Foley and Johnson carry out their assignments with zero-defect zeal. Mumphord is an interchangeable part. White may well have been the best corner prospect in the entire draft. PERF. QT.: 2.

Anderson and Scott have turned playing in no-man's land into an art form. Both are game-breakers. Dick enjoyed the best year of any NFL defender. Babb puts out 101 per cent. PERF. QT.: 1.

BUFFALO BILLS



O.J. Simpson set pages of records during the '73 season.

The Bills played a one-note tune most of last season and still came within an eyelash of making the playoffs. This year they hope to go further with some new versatility.

Until late last season, Buffalo's offense consisted almost exclusively of O.J. Simpson's running. The quarterback was a rookie, Joe Ferguson; the fullback, Larry Watkins, was essentially a blocking back; the tight end was a tackle, Paul Seymour, used for his blocking ability; and the wide receivers were 75 per cent crack-back blockers, 25 per cent pass catchers.

But as the Bills closed with four consecutive victories, Coach Lou Saban took the handcuffs off Ferguson and allowed him to throw more and Watkins, an effective journeyman, was replaced by Jim Braxton, whose back miseries kept him drydocked for months. Braxton performed like a latent superstar.

So this is what the Bills have going for them as they zero in on a playoff spot—or even something more ambitious, namely the catching of the Dolphins:

1. Ferguson has a year's experience has convinced people he possesses a major-league arm.

2. Braxton will be paired with O.J. from the beginning.

3. The No. 1 draftee is a tight end, Oklahoma State's Reuben Gant. If he produces as the Bills hope he will, Sey-

mour can be returned to the interior of the line.

4. The young offensive line, which helped Simpson rocket for 2,003 yards and was a vital factor in the Bills' setting an NFL record for yards gained by a team, 3,088, should be even better with a year's experience and Seymour playing his natural position.

5. The Bills already possesses two of the better wide receivers in the NFL, Bobby Chandler and J.D. Hill, and now have another, Ahmad Rashad (the former Bobby Moore), who was acquired from St. Louis.

But the hole card, of course, is still O.J. Even if the Bills' new versatility connects and the anti-crack-back rule hinders outside running, Simpson still should flirt with 1,500 yards.

With Simpson stretching the defenses, Braxton breaches the inside openings. Jim is also a talented pass receiver, having been an All-America tight end one season with West Virginia.

The offensive line includes one All-Pro, guard Reggie McKenzie, plus a couple of No. 1 draftees who won starting jobs last season, Seymour and guard Joe DeLamielleure. When center Bruce Jarvis got hurt at mid-season, Saban switched former New England guard Mike Montler to center and it looked like an inspirational move. There will be a battle there now.

Defensively the Bills have holes, but

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Prediction: Second

up front they may be so strong that other flaws can be covered.

There are a parade of good defensive linemen. Exhibit A is Earl Edwards, who came last year in a trade with San Francisco, was switched from tackle to end and won the Bills' Most Valuable Defensive Player Award. The other end is Walt Patulski, who was benched for five games last season, then woke up to produce like the NFL's bonus draft choice he once was. Don Croft was the team's best defensive lineman as a tackle in '72, tore up a knee in training camp last year, missed the whole campaign and now is being converted to end.

Jerry Patton, a regular tackle last season, was traded to the Philadelphia Eagles. That leaves one hole in the defensive front. Mike Kadish, once Miami's No. 1 pick, has first crack at the other inside position. But he could be challenged. Jeff Winans, who showed as a rookie in 1973 that he has immense possibilities as an interior pass rusher, inherits Patton's spot. And Jeff Yeates, a fourth-round 1973 draft choice who was hurt all of last year, could force his way into the lineup.

Jim Cheyunski, who was acquired in a trade prior to last season, had a big campaign at middle linebacker. He doesn't have the stereotyped heft for the position but he makes up for a lot with his savvy.

John Skorupan, the former Penn State All-America, was a hit as a starting linebacker in his rookie season and Saban hopes his ex-college teammate, Doug Allen, the No. 2 draftee, can take over on the other side.

Cornerback is a well-cared-for position with All-Pro Robert James on one side and former receiver Dwight Harrison on the other. Saban would like to move free safety Tony Greene back to corner for protection but there is a lack of skill-at-safety. Ernie Kellerman "unretired" to start on the strong side last year.

John Leyboldt is one of the bright young placekickers in the NFL but punter Spike Jones can be pushed hard by Notre Dame rookie Brian Doherty.

1973 RECORD (9-5)

31 New England	13	6 New Orleans	13
7 San Diego	34	13 Cincinnati	16
9 New York Jets	7	0 Miami	17
27 Philadelphia	26	24 Baltimore	17
31 Baltimore	13	17 Atlanta	6
6 Miami	27	37 New England	13
23 Kansas City	14	34 New York Jets	14

SYMBOLS **—Traded
†—Conference leader
††—Tied for conference lead

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
Ferguson	164	73	939	42	4	10	44.5
**Shaw	46	22	300	40	0	4	47.8

Simpson
Braxton
Watkins
Ferguson

Chandler
Hill
Watkins
Seymour

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	27	21	90
12	0	0	72
4	0	0	24
3	1	0	19
3	0	0	18

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Harrison	5	117	1	38	23.4
Cheyunski	3	31	0	31	10.3
Kellerman	2	23	0	19	11.5

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
Spike Jones	66	2660	62	40.3

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
332†	2003†	12†	80†	6.0
108	494	4	36	4.6
98	414	2	17	4.2
48	147	2	24	3.1

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Walker	25	210	0	23	8.4
Cahill	4	73	1	51	18.3

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
30	427	3	37	14.2
29	422	0	42	14.6
12	86	1	28	7.2
10	114	0	22	11.4

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Francis	23	687	2†	101	29.9†
Steve Jones	6	116	0	22	19.3

OFFENSE

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
QUARTERBACKS					
Ferguson, Joe	6-1	180	24	2	Arkansas
Marangi, Gary	6-1	196	22	1	Boston College
RUNNING BACKS					
Simpson, O.J.	6-1	212	27	6	Southern California
Braxton, Jim	6-1	243	24	4	West Virginia
Watkins, Larry	6-2	230	28	6	Alcorn A&M
Van Valkenberg, Pete	6-2	192	24	2	Brigham Young
Crumpler, Carlester	6-3	207	22	1	East Carolina
Jones, Steve	6-0	200	23	2	Duke

RECEIVERS					
Hill, J.D. (W)	6-1	202	25	4	Arizona State
Chandler, Bob (W)	6-0	179	25	4	Southern California
Seymour, Paul (T)	6-5	252	24	2	Michigan
Rashad, Ahmad (W)	6-2	200	25	3	Oregon
Gant, Reuben (T)	6-4	233	22	1	Oklahoma State
Francis, Wallace (W)	5-11	190	22	2	Arkansas AM&N
Jarvis, Ray (W)	5-11	193	25	4	Norfolk State

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN					
Green, Donnie (T)	6-8	272	26	4	Purdue
Foley, Dave (T)	6-5	261	26	5	Ohio State
McKenzie, Reggie (G)	6-4	235	24	3	Michigan
DeLamielleure, Joe (G)	6-3	254	23	2	Michigan State
Montler, Mike (C)	6-5	254	29	6	Colorado
Jarvis, Bruce (C)	6-7	250	25	4	Washington
Penchion, Bob (G-T)	6-5	265	25	3	Alcorn A&M
Hagen, Halvor (T)	6-5	245	27	6	Weber State
Parker, Willie (G)	6-3	241	24	3	North Texas State

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS					
Leypoldt, John (Pk)	6-2	229	28	4	None
Jones, Spike (P)	6-2	197	27	5	Georgia
Doherty, Brian (P)	6-2	192	22	1	Notre Dame

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN					
Patulski, Walt (E)	6-6	259	24	3	Notre Dame
Edwards, Earl (E)	6-6	262	28	6	Wichita
Winans, Jeff (T)	6-5	265	22	2	Southern California
Kadish, Mike (T)	6-5	265	24	2	Notre Dame
Croft, Don (E)	6-3	254	25	2	Texas-El Paso
Yeates, Jeff (T)	6-2	238	22	1	Boston College
Kampa, Bob (E)	6-4	252	23	2	California
Okoniewski, Steve (T)	6-3	247	25	3	Montana

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS					
Skorupan, John (O)	6-2	214	23	2	Penn State
Lewis, Richard (O)	6-3	220	24	3	Portland State
Cheyunski, Jim (M)	6-1	225	28	7	Syracuse
Washington, Dave (O)	6-5	228	26	5	Alcorn A&M
Forsberg, Fred (M-O)	6-1	225	30	6	Washington
Allen, Doug (O)	6-1	224	22	1	Penn State
Croyle, Phil (O)	6-2	223	27	4	California

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS					
James, Robert	6-1	184	27	6	Fisk
Harrison, Dwight	6-2	178	25	4	Texas A&I
Walker, Donnie	6-2	180	23	2	Central Ohio

SAFETIES					
Kellerman, Ernie (S)	6-0	183	30	9	Miami (Ohio)
Greene, Tony (W)	5-10	170	25	4	Maryland
Cahill, Bill (W)	5-11	180	23	2	Washington

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Poised Ferguson, whose major league arm was under wraps, will be permitted more leeway. Marangi is the lone backup. PERF. QT.: 4.

What more can you say about O.J.? There's never been a ball carrier as magnificent. The defensive attention he merits opens things up for Braxton, a freight train who's a "deja vu" of Cookie Gilchrist. Watkins gave a good account of himself. Then Jim took over. Van Valkenberg and Jones just watch the master from their seats on the bench. Reports are that Crumpler resembles Calvin Hill. PERF. QT.: 1.

Yes, the Bills employ receivers. Good ones. And this year they'll be used for more than blocking. Note the steal—er, deal—for the ultratalented Rashad. He doesn't plan to sit. Holdover starters are speed merchant Hill, who always rates double coverage, and Chandler, a Raymond Berry type. Seymour is really a third tackle. He'll move inside if Gant produces. Francis is the AFC's best kickoff returner. Jarvis isn't bad. PERF. QT.: 2.

Are there any complaints about a convoy of bulldozers that paved the way for 3,088 yards rushing? Actually there are shortcomings, but none that time-in-grade won't correct. When Seymour moves from tight end, he'll start. It's a shame that either Foley or Green will have to exit. McKenzie cuts defenders down like a machete. He's All-Pro. DeLamielleure excelled as a rookie and should be a fixture for years. When Jarvis was hurt, Montler took the job. Now Bruce will try to win it back. Penchion, Parker and Hagen provide ample depth. PERF. QT.: 2.

Leypoldt, despite an occasional flub, has a strong, effective leg. He booms kickoffs. Jones will be severely threatened by rookie Doherty (42.7 yards a kick in college last year). PERF. QT.: 3.

All of a sudden, the Bills are well fortified here. The bargain with the 49ers for Edwards provided the missing piece. After a five-game benching, Patulski saw the light. If he gives 100 per cent, he can be All-Pro. Kadish, redeemed from Miami's doghouse, performed with dignity. But he's not secure. Winans and Yeates will be difficult to surpress. Kampa, Croft (a '72 regular who sat out last season with a knee injury) and Okoniewski are impressive young toughs with big futures. PERF. QT.: 2.

Despite a face-lifting, the complexion here still sags. Cheyunski came in a swap with New England. The spirit is willing, but the flesh doesn't intimidate anybody. Skorupan was a precocious rookie and will get better. Lewis, who became a starter late, looks over his shoulder at Allen, the No. 2 draftee. Forsberg gives his all. He and Washington, out seven weeks in '73 with a broken arm, have started before. Croyle is run-of-the-mill. PERF. QT.: 4.

James is a bona-fide All-Pro. With the bump-and-run now limited, he'll have to alter his tactics. Harrison switched from wide receiver with flying colors. Walker subs at safety, too. PERF. QT.: 2.

Greene bounces from corner to safety. His size is a detriment. Kellerman is wise in NFL ways but a trifle slow. Cahill exhibits a lot of get-up-and-go. A shakeup can occur here. PERF. QT.: 4.



BALTIMORE COLTS



Lydell Mitchell rushed for 963 yards for the Colts.

The purge is at an end. All the blood that is going to be let has been let. Or at least most of it.

Now the project in Baltimore is to rebuild the Colts. The argument is that too much blood has been spilled already, that the purge went too far for the Colts to be rebuilt in the next few years.

But supporters of Joe Thomas, the activist general manager who did the purging, point out that the team showed genuine signs of improvement last season, particularly in the 19-3 upset over World Champion Miami in the season's next-to-last game.

Now the draft has brought in three players who could account for far more improvement, possibly this season. The Colts had two picks in the first round, selecting John Dutton of Nebraska for the defense and Roger Carr of Louisiana Tech for the attack.

It would be a major disappointment to the Colts if Dutton doesn't step right into the lineup as a defensive end. Thomas wants size and pass-rushing teeth and Dutton answers the first qualification. His work with the Cornhuskers gave evidence that he may possess the second qualification, too.

One of the weaknesses in Baltimore's offense for the last couple of seasons was the lack of a really first-rate wide receiver. Carr could be the guy. He has sprinter's speed, size and a knack for getting open.

The third draftee and the team's first selection in the second round is Fred Cook, the tough guy from Southern Mississippi, who is built along the lines of a linebacker right now but who the Colts feel can put on the necessary heft eventually to join Dutton as a defensive end.

The Colts also drafted for running back help, but outside forces spoiled their plans to reupholster this area. Their second second-round pick was Ed Shuttlesworth of Michigan, a big full-back whom they hoped to team with Lydell Mitchell. But the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian League outbid them for Shuttlesworth. Lower down in the draft Baltimore picked Paul Miles of Bowling Green, but Memphis of the new World Football League signed him.

The WFL hit the Colts fairly hard. Tom Drougas, the offensive tackle whom Baltimore drafted No. 1 a couple of years ago, and center Fred Hoaglin joined the new league. Hoaglin is for 1975 delivery; Drougas reports in 1976. Drougas was the brightest hope on the front line, which is undergoing an overhaul. Also going the WFL route were Oklahoma State linebacker Glenn Robinson, a third-round pick, and Morgan State tight end Greg Latta, an eighth-rounder.

So Mitchell, whose 963 yards made him the most productive Baltimore ground gainer since Alan Ameche, will line up with Don McCauley or Bill Olds, both holdovers. Olds did not produce as

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the power runner the Colts sought when they drafted him a year ago.

If Carr comes through as hoped, the Colts could have a double-barreled attack on the flanks. Young Glenn Doughty was a hit when the coaches finally put him into the lineup, averaging an eye-popping 23.5-yards per catch on his 25 receptions.

The mystery is at tight end. Thomas traded Bubba Smith to Oakland a year ago for All-Pro tight end Raymond Chester. The coaches became disenchanted with Chester early, rapping his blocking and inability to get open on pass routes. They played veteran Tom Mitchell ahead of him and Coach Howard Schnellenberger indicated that he probably would trade one of them.

Schnellenberger also went with rookie quarterback Bert Jones at the start of the season, but when the Wunderkind went into shock after a tornado of interceptions and a holocaust of sackings, a retread job was done on veteran Marty Domres.

Defensively the master plan is to meld Dutton and Cook into the line with two other promising youngsters, Joe Ehrmann and Mike Barnes. Ehrmann is definitely a tackle and Cook is an end. The other two could wind up at either position.

The strength of the defensive still is with the linebacking—All-Pro candidates Ted Hendricks and Mike Curtis along with young Stan White.

Nelson Munsey made large strides as a cornerback last year, but there is still some question about how far the Colts can go with Rex Kern on the other side.

Bruce Laird dipped noticeably from his fine rookie showing as a starting strong-side safety. The hope is that he'll snap back. Rick Volk doesn't have that All-Pro look any longer, but he's still a stable and skilled free safety, and Mike Simpson, from the San Francisco 49ers, can help out when necessary.

George Hunt upgraded the placekicking in his rookie season but David Lee had an off-year as the punter.

1973 RECORD (4-10)

14 Cleveland	24	27 Houston	31
10 New York Jets	34	0 Miami	44
14 New Orleans	10	14 Washington	22
16 New England	24	17 Buffalo	24
13 Buffalo	31	17 New York Jets	20
29 Detroit	27	16 Miami	3
21 Oakland	24	18 New England	13

SCORING

	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Hunt	0	22	16	70
Speyrer	5	0	0	30
Doughty	4	0	0	24
T. Mitchell	4	0	0	24
Four tied with	2	0	0	12

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
White	4	40	1	19	10.0
Hendricks	3	33	0	24	11.0
Kern	2	22	0	22	11.0
Oldham	2	10	0	7	5.0
Curtis	2	9	0	7	4.5

RUSHING

	Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
L. Mitchell	253	963	2	36	3.8
McCauley	144	514	2	24	3.6
Domres	32	126	2	14	3.9
Olds	26	100	2	17	3.8

PUNTING

	Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
Lee	62	2402	60	38.7

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
Domres	191	93	1153	66	9	13	48.7
Jones	108	43	539	51	4	12	39.8

	Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Doughty	25	587	4	66	23.5
T. Mitchell	25	313	4	33	12.5
McCauley	25	186	0	34	7.4
Chester	18	181	1	40	10.1
Speyrer	17	311	4	47	18.3
L. Mitchell	17	113	0	14	6.6

PUNT RETURNS

	Retts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Laird	15	72	0	13	4.8
Volk	7	45	0	13	6.4

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Retts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Speyrer	17	496	1	101	29.1
Laird	24	547	0	51	22.8

OFFENSE

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
QUARTERBACKS					
Domres, Marty	6-4	222	26	6	Columbia
Jones, Bert	6-3	205	22	2	Louisiana State

RUNNING BACKS					
Michell, Lydell	5-11	204	24	3	Penn State
McCauley, Don	6-1	214	23	4	North Carolina
Olds, Bill	6-1	224	22	2	Nebraska
Ginn, Hubert	5-10	185	26	5	Florida A&M
Orduna, Joe	6-0	195	26	3	Nebraska
Brokowski, Bob	6-2	205	22	1	Purdue

RECEIVERS					
Carr, Roger (W)	6-3	200	22	1	Louisiana Tech
Doughty, Glenn (W)	6-2	204	22	3	Michigan
Michell, Tom (T)	6-3	215	29	8	Bucknell
Speyrer, Cotton (W)	6-0	175	24	3	Texas
Havrilak, Sam (W)	6-2	195	25	6	Bucknell
Chester, Raymond (T)	6-4	235	25	5	Morgan State
Smith, Ollie (W)	6-2	195	23	2	Tennessee State

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN					
*Drougas, Tom (T)	6-4	257	23	3	Oregon
Nelson, Dennis (T)	6-5	260	27	5	Illinois State
Ressler, Glenn (G)	6-3	250	30	10	Penn State
Collett, Elmer (G)	6-4	240	28	8	San Francisco State
Mendenhall, Ken (C)	6-3	235	25	4	Oklahoma
Taylor, David (T)	6-4	254	23	2	Catawba
Pratt, Robert (G)	6-3	255	23	1	North Carolina
*Hoaglin, Fred (C)	6-4	250	29	9	Pittsburgh
Palmer, Gery (T)	6-4	255	23	1	Kansas

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS					
Hunt, George (Pk)	6-1	215	23	2	Tennessee
Lee, David (P)	6-4	230	29	9	Louisiana Tech

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

DEFENSE					
FRONT LINEMEN					
Dutton, John (E)	6-6	252	23	1	Nebraska
Barnes, Mike (E)	6-6	255	22	2	Miami (Fla.)
Ehrmann, Joe (T)	6-5	260	23	2	Syracuse
Bailey, Jim (T)	6-6	255	24	5	Kansas
Schmiesing, Joe (T)	6-4	245	28	7	New Mexico State
Cook, Fred (E)	6-3	235	22	1	Southern Miss.
Amman, Richard (T)	6-5	250	23	3	Florida State

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS					
Hendricks, Ted (O)	6-7	220	25	6	Miami (Fla.)
White, Stan (O)	6-1	225	23	3	Ohio State
Curtis, Mike (M)	6-2	232	29	10	Duke
Kaczmarek, Mike (O)	6-4	235	22	2	Southern Illinois
Cherry, Stan (O)	6-5	200	23	2	Morgan State
Dickel, Dan (O)	6-3	220	22	1	Iowa
Rhodes, Danny (O-M)	6-2	220	23	1	Arkansas

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS					
Kern, Rex	6-1	190	23	4	Ohio State
Munsey, Nelson	6-1	185	25	3	Wyoming
Oldham, Ray	6-0	200	22	2	Middle Tenn. St.
Nettles, Doug	6-0	177	23	1	Vanderbilt

SAFETIES					
Laird, Bruce (S)	6-0	185	23	3	U.S. International
Volk, Rick (W)	6-3	195	28	8	Michigan
Herosian, Brian (S)	6-3	200	23	2	Connecticut
Simpson, Mike (W)	5-9	170	27	5	Houston

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

These two completed 45 per cent of their offerings and were intercepted 25 times. When will the future be? PERF. QT.: 3.

The emphasis shifts here to get into step with the '70s. Mitchell is a cause for rejoicing. Though no threat for a quick six, he displayed durability and consistency. McCauley is much the same. Ginn has yet to show anything. Olds can block but needs time to develop. Orduna, from the Giants, is game but limited. Bobrowski is an ex-quarterback. Depth is needed. PERF. QT.: 3.

This area can stand some juicing up. Trading Bubba Smith to Oakland for lackadaisical (All-Pro?) Chester left egg all over Joe Thomas' face. But it still can be removed. Mitchell, though slower than Raymond, easily played ahead of him. Doughty was a delightful surprise. First-round draft choice Carr, a sprinter, has all the tools. He probably will make Speyrer an observer. Havrilak is handy to have on hand. Smith looks to the future. PERF. QT.: 3.

This unit is not up to accepted old Colt standards, but neither is much else on this team. Ressler, the only link here to "the way we were," carries a noteworthy portfolio. Former 49er Collett will remain until a better man comes along. It's about time for Drougas, the No. 1 draft pick in '72, to demonstrate that he can do it week-in and week-out. Nelson is nothing earth-shattering on the other side. More than a few eyebrows were lifted when Mendenhall climbed over former Browns' regular Hoaglin. Pratt might be a player. Taylor and Palmer are due to tread water in the shadows. PERF. QT.: 3.

Hunt is accurate but lacks range. Lee, who's shown he has what it takes, was abominable punting last season. PERF. QT.: 3.

This is a kiddie corps that could be out-of-this-world when it gets assembled and jells. Dutton's entrance may be the catalyst. He's big and mean. Cook is growing and may fight in the front lines, too. Ehrmann, set back by a knee injury, showcased his mettle late last season. Depending on how Cook fits in, the inconsistent Barnes could take a crack at Bailey's job. Amman will scramble in order to stick around. Schmiesing is expendable. PERF. QT.: 3.

This is the club's strong suit—if the first team plays. That wasn't the case last fall when the bone-crunching Curtis suffered a separated shoulder and missed seven games. Irascible Mike ranks with the game's finest. As does Hendricks, who has a 100-yard reach. White got headlines for crumpling Joe Namath but is a notch below his cohorts. Kaczmarek and Cherry have a year under their belts. Rhodes, Dickel are top new arrivals. PERF. QT.: 2.

Reinforcements are necessary to get things up to snuff. This group gets picked on. Munsey learned by trial and error. But that's usually costly. There's little to choose from between Kern and Oldham, who'll fight it out. Nettles may give them a run, too. PERF. QT.: 4.

Things here are unsatisfactory, too, but this is the domain of Volk, whose name is inscribed on the All-Pro parchment. He has good years left. Laird's coverage dipped, as did his kick returns. Herosian sticks around. Simpson is handy to have. PERF. QT.: 3.

NEW YORK JETS



Jerome Barkum's 18.4 yards a catch was close to the AFC lead.

The New York Jets are becoming proficient in the Three Rs, but it won't get them straight As or a lift in the won-lost columns of the AFC Eastern Division standings.

The three Rs in the Jets' case are reluctance, resentment and regression.

The reluctance is symbolized by John Riggins and Joe Namath. Riggins is the massively talented fullback who tore up the league two years ago, then couldn't decide if he even wanted to play football last year. By the time John reported last season, the regular campaign already had begun and it took him until Thanksgiving to get into physical condition. He never did get into mental gear for football.

Namath's reluctance is more sophisticated. Financially, he doesn't need football any more. The American Broadcasting Company made him an offer he almost couldn't refuse to replace Don Meredith as a member of the Monday night broadcasting trinity. Joe's knees keep him in near-agony during the season and the deterioration of his blocking in recent seasons has added to that particular woe.

The resentment exploded last spring when Al Atkinson, the veteran middle linebacker, rapped the club's management for what he called "a terrible coldness" in its attitude toward the squad. Atkinson is a moderate, soft-spoken, well-respected man, which gave

his public outburst all the more impact.

Contract squabbles have characterized the downfall of the Jets. The latest discontented players to leave were veteran defensive tackle John Elliott and young linebacker Mike Taylor, who played out their contract options and signed with the New York Stars of the World Football League. Previously management's heavy hand cost it All-Star defensive end Gerry Philbin, wide receiver George Sauer and defensive end Verlon Biggs.

The regression is symbolized by the misfired draft choices and failure to achieve potential. An example of a draftee who missed is Taylor, the All-America linebacker from Michigan who failed to shore up one of the team's dilapidated areas. Failure to achieve potential is the rap on tight end Richard Caster, a man who has the skill to rip apart defenses but whose inconsistencies hurt the Jets as much as his successes gore the enemy.

When Namath needs relief, the quarterbacking will be done by Al Woodall, whose career as a part-time starter has been checkered. There is serious doubt whether he is equipped to win consistently.

It is vital that Riggins pay attention this year. Emerson Boozer is an honest workman, a player who can hurt a defense running the ball or catching it, but he is getting old.

Winston Hill, the big tackle, is the

AFC East Prediction: Fourth

only offensive lineman of real quality. The big hope is that Robert Woods, a second-year man, will come along at guard or tackle. The second-round draftee, Gordie Browne, of Boston College, will get a clear shot at winning a starting job.

Jerome Barkum seems on the verge of joining the league's pass-catching elite. If Caster were more consistent, that department would be ranked as high as almost any around.

Defensively the draft may have brought two quality starters. Management opened the purse strings for the top pick, Indiana defensive tackle Carl Barzilauskas, who got more money than Namath did as a rookie.

The Jets then speared a ruby in the third round, Southern U. linebacker Godwin Turk, who many thought wouldn't last beyond the first round. Turk will challenge veteran Ralph Baker at first, but Charlie Winner, the new head coach, may find that the percentage is to shift him to the other side where sophs Bill Ferguson and Rob Spicer are neck and neck.

Barzilauskas is a vital figure in the defensive line. Mark Lomas, an end, led the team in sacks last season but he can't be considered a stopper by any means. Probably the most efficient lineman is former New Orleans Saint Richard Neal.

Earlie Thomas is one of the league's underrated players at cornerback. His partner Delles Howell, another ex-Saint who joined the team last year, does a firm job.

The best new player in the secondary is Burgess Owens, who did some excellent things from his strong safety position in his rookie season. Phil Wise ended the year as the starting free safety, but now Chris Farasopoulos is recovered from knee surgery and will challenge. Steve Tannen is always in the competition.

Placekicker Bobby Howfield should do all right under the new kicking rules, but punter Julian Fagan had a horrible season and could be displaced by rookie Greg Gantt.

1973 RECORD (4-10)

7 Green Bay	23	14 Miami	24
34 Baltimore	10	33 New England	13
7 Buffalo	9	14 Cincinnati	20
3 Miami	31	20 Atlanta	28
9 New England	7	20 Baltimore	17
14 Pittsburgh	26	23 Philadelphia	24
28 Denver	40	14 Buffalo	34

SYMBOL x—Signed with WFL for 1974.

Boozler
Riggins
Adamle
xNance

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
Woodall	201	101	1228	56	9	8	50.2
Namath	133	68	966	63	5	6	51.1
Demory	39	12	159	31	2	8	30.8

Barkum
Caster
Bell
Riggins
Boozler

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	27	17	78
6	0	0	36
6	0	0	36
4	0	0	24
4	0	0	24

Howell
Baker
Sowells
Thomas

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
4	76	0	41	19.0
4	51	1	22	12.8
3	55	1	30	18.3
2	25	0	25	12.5

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
182	831	3	52	4.6
134	482	4	15	3.6
67	264	0	36	3.9
18	78	0	18	4.3

Fagan

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
74	2744	58	37.1

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Fara'poulos	14	111	0	23	7.9
Turner	11	54	0	10	4.9

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Adkins	31	615	0	38	19.8
Bjorklund	9	175	0	24	19.4

OFFENSE

Performance Quotients

QUARTERBACKS

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Namath, Joe	6-2	200	31	10	Alabama
Woodall, Al	6-5	194	28	6	Duke
Demory, Bill	6-2	195	23	2	Arizona

RUNNING BACKS

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Boozler, Emerson	5-11	205	31	9	Md.-Eastern Shore
Riggins, John	6-2	230	25	4	Kansas
Adamle, Mike	5-9	193	24	4	Northwestern
Bjorklund, Hank	6-1	200	24	3	Princeton

RECEIVERS

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Barkum, Jerome (W)	6-4	212	24	3	Jackson State
Bell, Eddie (W)	5-10	160	27	5	Idaho State
Caster, Rich (T)	6-5	228	25	5	Jackson State
Knight, David (W)	6-1	182	23	2	William & Mary
Adkins, Margene (W)	5-10	183	27	5	Henderson J.C.
Cambal, Dennis (T)	6-3	228	25	2	William & Mary

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Hill, Winston (T)	6-4	280	32	12	Texas Southern
Browne, Gordie (T)	6-5	245	22	1	Boston College
Woods, Robert (G-T)	6-3	255	24	2	Tennessee State
Rasmussen, Randy (G)	6-2	267	29	8	Kearney State
Schmitt, John (C)	6-4	250	31	11	Hofstra
Svihus, Bob (T)	6-4	245	31	10	Southern California
Puetz, Garry (C-G)	6-3	255	22	2	Valparaiso
Mooring, John (T-C)	6-6	255	27	4	Tampa
Wyman, Bill (C)	6-2	238	22	1	Texas

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Howfield, Bobby (Pk)	5-9	180	37	7	None
Fagan, Julian (P)	6-3	205	26	5	Mississippi
Gantt, Greg (P)	5-11	188	22	1	Alabama

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

FRONT LINEMEN

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Lomas, Mark (E)	6-4	250	26	5	Northern Arizona
Galigher, Ed (E)	6-4	260	23	3	UCLA
Barzilauskas, Carl (T)	6-6	270	22	1	Indiana
Neal, Richard (T-E)	6-3	260	26	6	Southern
Little, John (T)	6-3	250	27	5	Oklahoma State
*Thompson, Steve (T)	6-5	250	29	6	Washington
Jackson, Joe (E)	6-4	270	25	3	New Mexico State

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Turk, Godwin (O)	6-3	230	22	1	Southern
Ferguson, Bill (O)	6-3	225	23	2	San Diego State
Atkinson, Al (M)	6-2	230	31	10	Villanova
Baker, Ralph (O)	6-3	228	32	11	Penn State
Rivers, Jamie (M)	6-2	235	29	7	Bowling Green
Spicer, Rob (O)	6-4	238	23	2	Indiana
Ebersole, John (M)	6-3	235	25	5	Penn State
Zapalac, Bill (O)	6-4	225	26	4	Texas

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Howell, Delles	6-4	200	26	5	Grambling
Thomas, Earlie	6-1	190	28	5	Colorado State
Sowells, Rich	6-0	185	25	4	Alcorn A&M

SAFETIES

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Owens, Burgess (S)	6-2	200	23	2	Miami (Fla.)
Wise, Phil (W)	6-0	190	25	4	Nebraska-Omaha
Farasopoulos, C. (W)	5-11	190	25	4	Brigham Young
Tannen, Steve (S-W)	6-1	194	26	5	Florida
Word, Roscoe (W)	5-10	180	22	1	Jackson State

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Will brittle Broadway Joe ever be around for a full season? His pattern of injuries is all too well established. Woodall is fragile, too, and of questionable talent. Demory is for disasters. PERF. QT.: 3.

Boozler, though still productive, is grinding to a halt. Riggins is moody—an unfortunate characteristic for a would-be superstar when it shows on the field. Adamle and Bjorklund are interested but ordinary. TE Dennis Cambal will get a look here. PERF. QT.: 3.

The BBC trio—Barkum, Bell and Caster—can scald defenses when two conditions exist: 1) They're concentrating; 2) The ball gets to them. Neither circumstance can be taken for granted. Eddie's size is a minus, but he makes a lot of vital receptions. Knight has good moves, soft hands. Adkins is fast but inconsistent. Cambal isn't really ready yet. PERF. QT.: 3.

Unless the once-secure airbag of pass protection can be reinflated to a reasonable facsimile of the glory days, there's trouble here. Thirty-seven sacks testify to the collapse. One of them tore up Joe Willie, the meal ticket. Hill remains surly but is a youngster no longer. Unheralded rookie Browne is programmed in for the other side. Rasmussen does commendable work. Woods, frequently a revolving door, will try to fill retired Dave Herman's shoes. Schmitt can be shoved aside by Puetz. Svihus is worn out. Mooring, once highly regarded, is slipping. Smallish Wyman has heart. PERF. QT.: 4.

There's still spring in Bobby's leg. But sometimes he thinks too much. Fagan was atrocious—the worst in the NFL. Rookie Gantt should win the job. PERF. QT.: 3.

Deep thinkers are convinced Barzilauskas (now spell it without peeking) will be a sure-fire remedy to one malady. But there are many other troubles. John Elliott, a wise ex-All-Pro, ran off to the WFL. Neal's a pleasant package of talent and desire. But the ends? Yikes! Lomas and Galigher don't frighten anyone. And without a pass rush from them the secondary's in for a lot of heat. Little, Thompson and Jackson help out—but not much. PERF. QT.: 4.

Yet another rebuilding project. Turk is supposed to be a savage. He'll probably make Baker a part-timer. Atkinson keeps getting injured and is wrestling with the alternative of retirement or demanding a trade. Whether he's present or not, ex-Cardinal Rivers may well take over. Ebersole was adequate in the middle for most of last season and will be around for insurance. So will Zapalac. The other outside area is an enormous question mark. Ferguson and Spicer are about equal, which isn't encouraging. PERF. QT.: 4.

Thomas knows the ropes and doesn't get fooled very often. Howell is rangy and can cover ground reasonably well, but he's susceptible to getting stung deep. Sowells is a respectable sub. PERF. QT.: 3.

Owens burst on the scene as a rookie and demonstrated he'll soon be among the NFL's elite. Wise is highly vulnerable. If Farasopoulos is back together after knee surgery, he'll most likely be the regular. Tannen is an in-and-out who is out of favor with the coaches. Word is a mighty-mite kick returner. PERF. QT.: 3.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

AFC
East
Prediction:
Fifth



Jim Plunkett led the AFC in three passing categories.

One of the few hot-stove items concerning the New England Patriots last winter came when Coach Chuck Fairbanks swapped a draft choice to Baltimore for Jack Mildren, a Colt safety. Since Mildren played quarterback for Fairbanks' super teams at Oklahoma, the speculation was that the Pats would install some wishbone offense, the Sooners' pet method of attack.

Fairbanks said, yes, he might try some wishbone in special situations, but that Mildren would have to make his club as a defensive back first.

What the Pats need a whole lot more than the wishbone is someone to stop runners like O.J. Simpson and someone else to give Jim Plunkett adequate protection.

Considering all of New England's personnel problems, Fairbanks did a first-class job in his rookie year as a pro coach. The club improved noticeably toward the end of the season, going on a three-game winning streak to finish with five victories. The Pats weren't a five-victory club on paper.

What the Pats have mostly is Plunkett, possibly the best young quarterback in the game. Terry Bradshaw of Pittsburgh and Ken Anderson of Cincinnati have more success, but the teams they are playing with are far stronger than New England.

Plunkett had more yards and more completions than any passer in the

American Conference last season. When the Patriots move, it is almost exclusively through the courtesy of Plunkett's arm. He could be more deadly now under the NFL's liberalized passing rules.

Reggie Rucker had a big year as Plunkett's top target, catching 53 balls. Darryl Stingley broke in sharply as a rookie and Randy Vataha still is a handy guy to have on the squad. Added to that bunch is Dick Gordon, the one-time Chicago Bear star who came in a winter deal with Green Bay.

Bob Windsor is a journeyman tight end. He was pressed by Bob Adams, the ex-Pittsburgher, last year.

The running backs are all big, powerful and not very fast. Sam Cunningham was so-so in his rookie year. John Tarver and Josh Ashton are both willing. Wayne Patrick tore up a knee and missed the season. The only guy who would remind Fairbanks of the blazers he had at Oklahoma is Mack Herron, and he's too little to get much steady work except as a kick returner.

That means there is opportunity plus for a rookie like Andy Johnson, a quarterback at Georgia whom Fairbanks will attempt to convert to a running back.

The offensive line is in the early stages of rebuilding. Guard John Hannah, last year's No. 1 draft choice, was the best man up front from the day he reported.

Tom Neville is workmanlike at tackle, but Fairbanks will have to go along with

the rest of the retreads until he finds an opportunity to replace them. Best of the newcomers is a neighborhood kid, Steve Corbett, who can play guard or center. The Boston College product was the team's first second-round pick, highest the Pats had last year. The only worry about him is a neck injury that threatens to become chronic.

The Pats had a tough time stopping the run last year. Ask O.J. He pierced them for 469 yards in two games. The only stopper in the lineup is quick Julius Adams, the good tackle. Ray Hamilton won a starting job at end in his rookie season but he's too small for an NFL regular. The top pick up front was Charles Battle, a Grambling linebacker, who will get his first shot at end.

The linebacking was a helter-skelter proposition. Edgar Chandler, the former Bill, played the middle all season long. Ron Acks, another veteran, holds down one outside spot but the third incumbent, Steve Kiner, was banished to Houston.

After the Pats drafted Corbett in the second round, they had another pick and exercised it to take linebacker Steve Nelson of North Dakota State. He may start somewhere.

George Hoey and Ron Bolton are decent young cornerbacks who have a chance to get better, especially if Fairbanks can discover some pass rushers to take pressure off them.

Sandy Durko, the ex-Bengal, and Ralph (Sticks) Anderson, who used to be a Steeler, finished as the starting safeties. The deep secondary situation was makeshift for Fairbanks but Durko and Anderson could have won themselves steady work.

The Pats may have blown a big opportunity when they were outbid for rookie punter Chuck Ramsey of Wake Forest by the Chicago Fire of the World League. He was college football's top punter last year and could have helped under the new rules. Placekicker Jeff White will be challenged by anybody who can find his way to the Pats' training camp.

1973 RECORD (5-9)

13 Buffalo	31	23 Philadelphia	24
7 Kansas City	10	13 New York Jets	33
23 Miami	44	33 Green Bay	24
24 Baltimore	16	32 Houston	0
7 New York Jets	9	30 San Diego	14
13 Chicago	10	13 Buffalo	37
14 Miami	30	13 Baltimore	18

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	21	14	63
5	0	0	30
5	0	0	30
4	0	0	24
4	0	0	24
4	0	0	24

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
6	65	0	56	10.8
3	26	0	16	8.7
2	3	0	3	1.5

SYMBOLS

†—Conference leader
 •—Combined Atlanta-New England record

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
155	516	4	25	3.3
72	321	4	28	4.5
93	305	0	34	3.3
44	209	5	20	4.8
61	200	2	17	3.3

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
53	743	3	64	14.0
23	348	4	36	15.1
23	339	2	25	14.7
20	341	2	48	17.1
18	265	1	29	14.7
15	144	1	34	9.6

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
55	2134	53	38.8

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
27	282	0	54	10.4
3	21	0	16	7.0
3	21	0	15	7.0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
41†	1092†	1	92	26.6
6	143	0	29	23.8

PASSING

Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
376†	193†	2550†	64	13	17	51.3
68	36	432	34	3	4	52.9

OFFENSE

Performance Quotients

QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Plunkett, Jim	6-2	210	27	4	Stanford
*Dowling, Brian	6-2	198	27	3	Yale
RUNNING BACKS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Cunningham, Sam	6-3	224	24	2	Southern California
Tarver, John	6-3	216	25	3	Colorado
Ashton, Josh	6-1	202	25	3	Tulsa
McCall, Bob	6-0	205	24	2	Arizona
Herron, Mack	5-5	170	26	2	Kansas State
Patrick, Wayne	6-1	230	28	6	Louisville
Johnson, Andy	6-0	199	22	1	Georgia
RECEIVERS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Rucker, Reggie (W)	6-2	190	27	5	Boston University
Vataha, Randy (W)	5-10	170	26	4	Stanford
Windsor, Bob (T)	6-4	225	32	8	Kentucky
Gordon, Dick (W)	5-11	190	30	10	Michigan State
Stingley, Darryl (W)	6-0	195	23	2	Purdue
Adams, Bob (T)	6-2	225	28	5	Pacific

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End
 INTERIOR LINEMEN
 Neville, Tom (T) 6-4 260 31 10 Mississippi State
 Gray, Leon (T) 6-3 256 23 2 Jackson State
 Hannah, John (G) 6-2 265 23 2 Alabama
 St. Jean, Len (G) 6-0 250 33 11 Northern Michigan
 Lenkaitis, Bill (C) 6-4 250 28 7 Penn State
 Adams, Sam (T) 6-3 252 26 3 Prairie View
 Corbett, Steve (G-C) 6-4 240 22 1 Boston College
 Banks, Willie (G) 6-2 250 28 5 Alcorn A&M
 Morris, John (C) 6-4 248 32 11 Holy Cross
 (T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
White, Jeff (Pk)	5-10	167	26	2	Texas-El Paso
Barnes, Bruce (P)	5-11	212	23	2	UCLA
DEFENSE	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Hamilton, Ray (E)	6-1	232	23	2	Oklahoma
Cash, Rick (E)	6-5	245	29	6	Northeast Missouri
Rowe, David (T)	6-7	265	29	8	Penn State
Adams, Julius (T)	6-3	257	26	4	Texas Southern
Smith, Donnell (E)	6-4	245	25	3	Southern
Moore, Arthur (T)	6-5	253	23	2	Tulsa
Lunsford, Mel (T)	6-3	250	24	2	Central Ohio
Dorsey, Nate (E)	6-4	240	24	2	Mississippi Valley
Battle, Charles (E)	6-4	230	22	1	Grambling
(E)—End (T)—Tackle					
LINEBACKERS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
King, Steve (O)	6-4	255	23	2	Tulsa
Acks, Ron (O)	6-2	200	30	7	Illinois
Chandler, Edgar (M)	6-3	225	28	7	Georgia
Tanner, John (O)	6-4	235	29	3	Tennessee Tech
Peterson, Bill (O)	6-3	226	29	5	San Jose State
Nelson, Steve (M)	6-1	225	22	1	North Dakota State
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker					
CORNERBACKS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Hoey, George	5-10	180	28	4	Michigan
Bolton, Ron	6-2	170	24	3	Norfolk State
Martin, Donald	5-11	187	25	2	Yale
SAFETIES	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Durko, Sandy (S)	6-1	186	26	4	Southern California
Anderson, Ralph (W)	6-1	180	25	4	West Texas State
Boyd, Greg (W)	6-2	201	24	2	Arizona
Mildren, Jack (S)	6-1	200	25	3	Oklahoma
(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety					

Smart, sturdy Plunkett is the game's premier young field general, but he can't do it alone. Dowling watches from the sidelines. PERF. QT.: 2.

This unit is far from a lost cause, but equally far from a productive classification. Cunningham, one of Plunkett's few bodyguards, runs hard but his fumble-itis destroys a lot of momentum. Patrick, if he shakes his knee problem, is a moving van who can carry the goods pretty well. Explosive running backs? None. But tireless Tarver, Ashton and McCall try hard. Kicker-returned Herron is usable in spots. Johnson, a converted quarterback, has a chance. PERF. QT.: 4.

A nice assortment of bull's-eyes is here for Plunkett to aim his bullets at. Rucker, with 53 catches, was the busiest by far. But his crewmates were no slouches when given the opportunity. Stingley and Vataha showed signs of reliability. Gordon, a transient unhappy in three cities, was All-Pro once. Four is a crowd. Windsor is adept at springing free. Adams is an acceptable No. 2. PERF. QT.: 2.

Leapin' Lizards! Plunkett must wonder whose side some of these so-called friends are on. This sieve obliged 37 sack parties. Most of the remainder of the time, Plunk was running for his life. Drafting Hannah No. 1 in '73 was a monumental step in the right direction. He's everything they thought he would be. Neville's credentials are decent. Opposite him will probably be Gray, who came on waivers from Miami. St. Jean could be dislodged by Corbett, the top draftee. At center, Lenkaitis and Morris are among those vying for playing time. Adams and Banks aren't much. PERF. QT.: 5.

Skilled craftsmen will be greeted with open arms. Both of these erratic fellows could be ousted without regret. PERF. QT.: 5.

Help . . . help! This sorry lot does an excellent imitation of tissue paper. O.J. Simpson gained 469 yards through them by himself. Unpredictable Adams is the only one who can hold his head up most of the time. Rowe can look impressive on one play—then awful on the next. Hamilton does some neat things, but his size is a hindrance. Cash gets wiped out on the other side. Fifth-round draft Battle, a college linebacker, will get a trial here. Other than him, there was no draft help whatsoever. Rejects Smith, Moore, Lunsford and Dorsey are all there are at the moment. PERF. QT.: 5.

The S.O.S. signal is being sent from here as well. But at least the job competition should be spirited. Acks, King and Chandler were the starters at season's end, but all too often they were shredded. To say the least, nobody's job is locked up. Peterson and Tanner are intent on the outside jobs. Nelson is the primary CARE package for assistance to the middle. PERF. QT.: 5.

The opposition's passing yardage—a mere 95.6 yards per game—is deceiving. Why pass when it's so easy to run? However, Bolton is improving; Hoey is learning. Martin is fair. PERF. QT.: 3.

Mildren, a wishbone quarterback for Coach Fairbanks at Oklahoma, is the most curious newcomer. He challenges Durko, who barely gets by. Jack even could play some offense. Anderson and Boyd inhabit the weak side. Neither is a tower of strength. PERF. QT.: 4.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS



Franco Harris gained 698 yards though nagged by injuries.

The moment of truth for the Pittsburgh Steelers was probably captured in a still photograph that was published in the "Miami Herald" late last season. The photo depicted All-Pro strong safety Dick Anderson leaping in front of a receiver to intercept a pass.

It was one of four interceptions Anderson made in that Monday night spectacular, two of which he returned for touchdowns. The problem for the Steelers was that a third-string quarterback named Joe Gilliam was throwing passes to receivers whose names were not Ron Shanklin and Frank Lewis.

The Steelers were injury-cursed last year and it probably cost them their second straight Central Division championship. After 10 games Pittsburgh had an 8-2 won-lost record, but by that time starting quarterback Terry Bradshaw was in the infirmary and his understudy, Terry Hanratty, was gasping for breath between pangs of agony due to broken ribs.

Lewis, a receiver of spectacular talent who is proving to be injury prone, and Shanklin, one of the league's most consistently effective players, were dry-docked by a variety of ailments.

So the Steelers, hoping that their quarterbacks would not all be decimated again this year, moved in the draft to make sure they wouldn't be made so vulnerable by an occasional wound to their receiver corps.

Their first pick was Lynn Swann, Southern California's multi-talented athlete. Pittsburgh not only got a player who might step right into the starting lineup but one who will be of immeasurable help as a punt and kick returner under the new liberalized playing rules.

That means that Bradshaw, who many feel will answer the glowing descriptions the scouts applied to him five years ago, has unlimited capabilities when throwing to his outside receivers. Since his running backs can catch the ball, too, the only chink in the Pittsburgh passing game is at tight end, where there is mediocrity.

The running game sagged last season when Franco Harris was stricken with a bad case of bumps and bruises in his sophomore year. Still, Franco managed 698 yards. Frenchy Fuqua (457), Preston Pearson (554) and dark-horse Steve Davis (266) will battle for the honor of lining up alongside Franco.

The Steelers do a creditable job in the offensive line. Center Ray Mansfield and Glen Ray Hines have some mileage on them but Mansfield splits the center duty with Jim Clack anyway and there are two young studs on the depth chart, Gordon Gravelle and Gerry Mullins, who will be breathing down Hines' neck from the first day of training camp.

Roy Gerela hit on 29 of 43 field goals last year and his kickoffs soar.

AFC Central Prediction: First

Defense, however, is the Steelers' primary game.

They make you fumble; they intercept your passes; they make things happen. For the second year in a row the Steelers led the NFL in interceptions with 37. They recovered 18 fumbles, therefore taking the ball away from the opposition 55 times, a league high.

The folks who make a lot of this happen are stationed up front in that defense. Tackle Joe Greene is a man opposing teams plot game plans around. He is an authentic superstar. Dwight White is a popular All-Pro choice, a man noted for his meanness, even though Greene has the nickname. But L.C. Greenwood, the other end, led the club in sacks for two of the last three seasons.

Ernie Holmes had a spectacular first half of season in '73, but when Tom Keating was acquired from Oakland he forced his way into a share of the job.

Even though the front four is credited with being the force of the defensive efficiency, the coaches feel that the key to the whole thing may be the linebacking. Andy Russell captured All-Pro honors for years, but now young Jack Ham is rated at least his equal. The coaches say middle man Henry Davis is nearly up to their standards. To make plans for the day Russell or Davis retires, Pittsburgh made lanky Jack Lambert of Kent State the No. 2 draftee.

The only significant change in the defense for '74 takes place at cornerback, where Jim Thomas replaces John Rowser, who was traded to Denver. Thomas was the No. 1 draft choice a year ago and has the ability to be a star.

The other corner is Mel Blount, an efficient fellow. Strong-side safety Mike Wagner tied for the league lead in interceptions with eight. His partner, free safety Glen Edwards, had a half dozen.

The moment of truth for the Steelers actually will be six weeks of truth—the period from mid-October to mid-November when they play Kansas City, Cleveland, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Cincinnati and Cleveland.

1973 RECORD (10-5)

24 Detroit	10	17 Oakland	9
33 Cleveland	6	13 Denver	23
36 Houston	7	16 Cleveland	21
38 San Diego	21	26 Miami	30
7 Cincinnati	19	33 Houston	7
24 New York Jets	14	37 San Francisco	14
20 Cincinnati	13	(Playoff)	
21 Washington	16	14 Oakland	33

SYMBOLS ** — Traded

† — Conference leader

†† — Tied for conference lead

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	36	29†	123†
10	0	0	60
4	0	0	24
3	0	0	18
3	0	0	18
3	0	0	18
3	0	0	18

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
8††	134	0	38	16.8
6	186†	1	86	31.0
6	131	1	71	21.8
4	82	0	24	20.5
3	54	1	45	18.0

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
62	2548	57	41.1

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
188	698	3	35	3.7
132	554	2	47	4.2
117	457	2	25	3.9
67	266	2	27	4.0

PUNT RETURNS

Retts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
34	336	0	44	9.9
18	80	0	18	4.4

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
30	711	10	67	23.7
23	409	3	53	17.8
23	317	3	46	13.8
17	150	0	22	8.8

KICKOFF RETURNS

Retts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
15	404	0	48	26.9
16	308	0	28	19.3

PASSING

Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
180	89	1183	67	10	15	49.4
69	31	643	53	8	5	44.9
60	20	331	46	2	6	33.3

OFFENSE

Ht Wt Age Exp College

QUARTERBACKS

Bradshaw, Terry	6-3	218	25	5	Louisiana Tech
Hanratty, Terry	6-1	210	26	6	Notre Dame
Gilliam, Joe	6-2	187	23	3	Tennessee State

RUNNING BACKS

Harris, Franco	6-2	230	24	3	Penn State
Pearson, Preston	6-1	205	29	8	Illinois
Fuqua, John	5-11	205	27	6	Morgan State
Davis, Steve	6-1	218	24	3	Delaware State
Bleier, Rocky	5-11	210	28	6	Notre Dame

RECEIVERS

Shanklin, Ron (W)	6-1	190	26	5	North Texas State
Lewis, Frank (W)	6-1	196	27	4	Grambling
McMakin, John (T)	6-3	232	23	3	Clemson
Pearson, Barry (W)	5-11	185	24	3	Northwestern
Swann, Lynn (W)	5-10	178	21	1	Southern California
Brown, Larry (T)	6-4	229	25	4	Kansas
Stallworth, John (W)	6-2	183	22	1	Alabama A&M

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

Kolb, Jon (T)	6-3	262	27	6	Oklahoma State
Hines, Glen Ray (T)	6-5	265	30	9	Arkansas
Van Dyke, Bruce (G)	6-2	255	30	9	Missouri
Davis, Sam (G)	6-1	255	30	8	Allen
Mansfield, Ray (C)	6-3	280	33	12	Washington
Gravelle, Gordon (T)	6-5	250	25	3	Brigham Young
Mullins, Gerry (G-T)	6-3	244	25	4	Southern California
Clack, Jim (C)	6-3	250	26	4	Wake Forest
Holmes, Mel (G)	6-3	251	24	4	North Carolina A&T

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

Gerela, Roy	5-10	185	26	6	New Mexico State
Walden, Bobby	6-0	190	36	11	Georgia

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

White, Dwight (E)	6-4	255	25	3	East Texas State
*Greenwood, L. C. (E)	6-6	245	27	6	Arkansas A&M
Greene, Joe (T)	6-4	275	27	6	North Texas State
Holmes, Ernie (T)	6-3	260	26	3	Texas Southern
Furness, Steve (E-T)	6-4	255	23	3	Rhode Island
Hanneman, Craig (E)	6-3	240	25	3	Oregon State
Keating, Tom (T)	6-2	247	31	11	Michigan

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

Ham, Jack (O)	6-1	225	25	4	Penn State
Russell, Andy (O)	6-2	225	32	10	Missouri
Davis, Henry (M)	6-3	235	31	7	Grambling
Webster, George (O)	6-4	220	28	8	Michigan State
Toews, Loren (O)	6-3	212	22	2	California
Bradley, Ed (M)	6-2	239	24	3	Wake Forest
Lambert, Jack (O-M)	6-4	215	21	1	Kent State

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

Blount, Mel	6-3	205	26	5	Southern
Thomas, James	6-2	196	23	2	Florida State
Dockery, John	6-0	185	29	7	Harvard
Allen, Jimmy	6-2	194	22	1	UCLA

SAFETIES

Wagner, Mike (S)	6-1	210	25	4	Western Illinois
Edwards, Glen (W)	6-0	185	27	4	Florida A&M
Meyer, Dennis (S)	5-11	186	24	2	Arkansas
Henley, Bruce (W)	6-1	177	22	1	Rice

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Bradshaw, rough edges and all, stands on the verge of superstardom. Hanratty filled in well enough to feel he should start. When both were injured, Gilliam showed he belongs. PERF. QT.: 2.

Harris, the golden boy of '72, was short-circuited by injury but finished with a charge in '73. When healthy, he bulldozes. Last year's additional burden was shouldered well by Pearson. And after an off year, Fuqua is out to make amends. Davis is coming on strong. Bleier sparkles on special teams. PERF. QT.: 2.

The \$64 question is: Can these wide receivers stay in one piece? If so, they're high-mileage guys. Shanklin continues to blossom. But he was hurt, as was road-runner Lewis. They're adept at giving shivers to opposition cornerbacks. Swann is a blue-chip rookie who will also be valuable returning kicks. Pearson and Stallworth are looked to for depth. Tight end is a problem. McMakin skidded drastically. Brown doesn't prompt jumps for joy. PERF. QT.: 3.

There are no household names here—but there is crisp efficiency. Agile Van Dyke, the ringleader, is All-Pro. Hard-charging Davis is a perfect complement. Kolb and Hines block well for the pass but could sharpen up their efforts on runs. Some uncertainty exists at center. Senior citizen Mansfield can't last forever. He and steadily maturing Clack split the chores and will do so again. Versatile Mullins is challenging for regular duty. Well-regarded Gravelle, slow to recover from knee problems, could work his way into the picture. Holmes is still learning. PERF. QT.: 3.

Gerela booted 67 per cent of his field goal tries. He's deadly. Inconsistency is creeping up on the aging Walden. PERF. QT.: 2.

They're awesome—and they're young. The pass rush is absolutely voracious. Therein lies the key to the entire defense: forcing mistakes via sheer harassment. Greene is overpowering. A Pro Bowl fixture, Joe is second to none. And he's a leader. Savvy veteran Keating, hoping to elude the injury gaffly, will scrap with bull-like Holmes for the other tackle slot. White and Greenwood are superb on the flanks. Furness and Hanneman are capable subs. PERF. QT.: 1.

Russell and Ham played on guts last year. Both were hurt, but demonstrated again that they're among the best in the game. Andy may move to the middle; Davis could be supplanted there. Lambert, the No. 2 draftee, is the heir apparent to Russell. But Toews may have something to say about that. Or the rookie could challenge for the middle. Bradley, a real kamikaze, is excellent on special units. Webster, once pre-eminent at his position, is an enigma. PERF. QT.: 2.

Thomas, still on the green side, replaces John Rowser, who was dealt to Denver. Blount does a workmanlike job. Dockery is all right for spot duty and can play safety, too. It would be nice if Allen could show something. Injuries are a major fear here. PERF. QT.: 3.

Just as at the corners, the meal ticket for these guys is the rush up front. Wagner and Edwards, pass pilferers par excellence, have a nose for the ball. Meyer hustles. Henley is a long-shot. But fingers are crossed here, too, for fear of injuries. PERF. QT.: 2.

CINCINNATI BENGALS



Boobie Clark, a 12th draft choice, rambled for the Bengals.

A lot of pro football teams swear they are on to something big at the start of every season, but the Cincinnati Bengals swore to it in a court of law last spring.

Witness after witness, players and coaches, testifying in the Bengals' attempt to get an injunction against the World Football League raiding their roster, swore that the Cincinnati club could reach the top in '74.

They came close to it in '73. At mid-season they were floundering around in the Central Division of the American Conference, dueling Cleveland for runner-up rights to the high-flying Pittsburgh Steelers. Then, like a shot, the Bengals took off, winning six straight games to close the season as divisional champions as Pittsburgh faltered under the weight of injuries.

What propelled the Bengals in that stretch run was youth—skilled and speedy youth.

Suddenly the passing combination of Ken Anderson, the young quarterback, to blazing swift catcher Isaac Curtis discovered how to unlock long gains against zone defenses. The Bengals' huge offensive line ripped fissures in opposing defenses for little Essex Johnson and his bright new fullback partner, Boobie Clark.

Not the least of the late-blooming weapons was a defense that many feel may be the next great one in the NFL—loaded with quality talent in

every area, despite the loss of Bill Bergey, a threatened WFL jumper.

The new rules in the National League won't hurt the Bengals a bit. In fact Paul Brown, a member of the competition committee which formulated the rules package that the owners agreed to, was accused of favoring his own star receiver by pushing through measures that make it easier for the pass catcher to get off the line of scrimmage and out into his pattern. "The Isaac Curtis rule," they are calling it.

Brown does admit that Curtis and Charlie Joiner "seem to vacuum in those balls that get anywhere near them." But they aren't the only weapons the Bengals have. Clark burrowed his way to 988 yards and caught 45 passes in his rookie season. Johnson rushed for even more yardage, 997, and will be reinforced by the arrival of Colorado's Charlie Davis, a key draft choice.

Anderson may be one of the coming quarterbacks in the league. He hit Curtis for five touchdown passes on the last two Sundays of the season, enjoying a 293-yard day in the finale against Houston.

The line is deep and skilled. Center Bob Johnson and tackle Vernon Holland are among the best in the NFL at their positions. When Stan Walters was stricken by hepatitis last year, Brown had another quality tackle to step right in, Rufus Mayes. Howard Fest, Pat Matson

AFC Central Prediction: Second

and John Shinnars are at the top of a quality guard pool.

The new kicking rules shouldn't be a hardship on Cincinnati. Dave Lewis long has been a clever, powerful punter. Placekicker Horst Muhlmann is accurate from close in and the longer kickoff shouldn't be beyond his range.

Defensively, the Bengals' front presents a problem of quickness and motion to its opponents. Exhibit A is Mike Reid, nearly peerless as an interior pass rusher. His game is quickness and few play it better. His tackle partner, Ron Carpenter, is among the most underrated defensive players in the NFL. While Reid goes head-hunting, Carpenter stays at home and protects against the run. The one inconsistency is Sherman White at defensive end. He can be brilliant one game, third-rate the next.

Bergey, the outstanding middle line-backer who was the object of the Bengals' anti-WFL suit, was traded to the Philadelphia Eagles. (How's that for coachly wrath!) He will be missed. His replacement figures to be the promising Doug Adams or Tim Kearney.

Ron Pritchard, the ex-Houston Oiler, performed well last year, but the other outside backer, Al Beauchamp, could be subject to a challenge.

Another bit of competition may develop deep in the secondary if cornerback Bernard Jackson shows enough tackling ability to push Neil Craig at strong-side safety. Tommy Casanova didn't have the bang-up season he enjoyed as a rookie, but that can be chalked up to nagging injuries.

Lemar Parrish and Ken Riley are fixtures at the corners. Both cover passes well and come up on the run nicely.

Besides Davis, the draft brought other goodies like first-choice defensive lineman Bill Kollar, offensive linemen Daryl White and Dave Lapham and line-backer Evan Jolitz.

Youngsters making a push now that they have some pro experience include tight end Al Chandler, linebacker Jim LeClair and wide receiver Tim George.

1973 RECORD (10-5)

10 Denver	28	16 Buffalo	13
24 Houston	10	20 New York Jets	14
20 San Diego	13	42 St. Louis	24
10 Cleveland	17	27 Minnesota	0
19 Pittsburgh	7	34 Cleveland	17
14 Kansas City	6	27 Houston	24
13 Pittsburgh	20	(Playoff)	
10 Dallas	38	16 Miami	34

SYMBOLS *—Retired
 **—Traded
 †—Conference leader

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
Muhlmann	0	31	21
Curtis	9	0	0
B. Clark	8	0	0
E. Johnson	7	0	0
Trumpy	5	0	0

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Casanova	4	33	0	16
**Bergey	3	50	0	22
Beauchamp	3	4	0	4

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
Lewis	68	2790	60

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
E. Johnson	195	997	4	46
B. Clark	254	988	8	26
Elliott	22	122	1	15
Anderson	26	97	0	17

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Parrish	25	200	0	47
Casanova	15	119	0	27

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Curtis	45	843†	9	77
B. Clark	45	347	0	39
Trumpy	29	435	5	53
E. Johnson	28	356	3	78
Joiner	13	214	0	26

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Jackson	21	520	0	41
Wilson	8	173	0	27

PASSING

Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
Anderson	329	179	2428	78	18	54.4
Cook	3	1	11	11	0	33.3

OFFENSE

Performance Quotients

QUARTERBACKS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
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Anderson, Ken	6-2	211	25	4	Augustana
Clark, Wayne	6-3	203	27	4	U.S. International

RUNNING BACKS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Clark, Boobie	6-2	245	23	2	Bethune-Cookman
Johnson, Essex	5-9	201	27	7	Grambling
Davis, Charlie	5-11	205	22	1	Colorado
Dressler, Doug	6-3	228	26	4	Chico State
Wilson, Joe	5-10	210	23	2	Holy Cross
Elliott, Lenvil	6-0	200	23	2	Northeast Missouri

RECEIVERS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Curtis, Isaac (W)	6-1	193	23	2	San Diego State
Myers, Chip (W)	6-6	210	29	7	Northwest Oklahoma
Trumpy, Bob (T)	6-6	228	28	7	Utah
Joiner, Charlie (W)	5-11	188	26	6	Grambling
George, Tim (W)	6-5	225	22	2	Carson-Newman
Chandler, Al (T)	6-2	233	23	2	Oklahoma

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Holland, Vernon (T)	6-6	268	26	4	Tennessee State
Mayes, Rufus (T)	6-5	260	25	6	Ohio State
Fest, Howard (G)	6-6	262	28	7	Texas
Matson, Pat (G)	6-1	245	30	9	Oregon
Johnson, Bob (C)	6-5	262	27	7	Tennessee
Shinners, John (G)	6-3	255	27	6	Xavier
Walters, Stan (T)	6-6	270	25	3	Syracuse
Deleone, Tom (C-G)	6-2	252	24	3	Ohio State
Lapham, David (G-T)	6-3	255	22	1	Syracuse
White, Daryl (G)	6-3	252	22	1	Nebraska

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Muhlmann, Horst (Pk)	6-2	219	34	6	None
Lewis, Dave (P)	6-2	225	29	5	Stanford

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

FRONT LINEMEN

LINEBACKERS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Berry, Royce (E)	6-4	250	28	6	Houston
White, Sherman (E)	6-5	255	25	3	California
Reid, Mike (T)	6-3	255	26	5	Penn State
Carpenter, Ron (T)	6-4	261	26	5	North Carolina St.
Kollar, Bill (T-E)	6-3	254	21	1	Montana State
Johnson, Ken (E)	6-6	265	27	4	Indiana
Bishop, Richard (T)	6-0	275	23	1	Louisville
Thomas, Lee (E)	6-5	240	28	4	Jackson State

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Beauchamp, Al (O)	6-2	237	30	7	Southern
Pritchard, Ron (O)	6-1	235	27	6	Arizona State
Adams, Doug (M)	6-1	222	24	4	Ohio State
Avery, Ken (O)	6-1	227	30	8	Southern Miss.
Kearney, Tim (O-M)	6-2	227	24	3	Northern Michigan
LeClair, Jim (O)	6-2	226	24	3	North Dakota
Jolitz, Evan (O)	6-2	225	22	1	Cincinnati

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebackers

CORNERBACKS	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Parrish, Lemar	5-11	185	26	5	Lincoln
Riley, Ken	5-11	181	26	6	Florida A&M
Jackson, Bernard	6-0	173	24	3	Washington State

SAFETIES

SAFETIES	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
Craig, Neal (S)	6-1	191	26	4	Fisk
Casanova, Tommy (W)	6-2	202	24	3	Louisiana State
Jones, Bob (W-S)	6-1	194	23	2	Virginia Union
Blackwood, Lyle (W)	6-0	189	23	2	TCU

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Anderson, though unspectacular, moves the team. Clark, from San Diego, is an adequate backup. PERF. QT.: 3.

Clark came out of nowhere to gain nearly 1,000 yards. His tank-like assaults coordinated well with the darting sorties of Johnson, who gained 997 yards. But Essex will be pushed hard by rookie flash Davis. Dressler, hurt all year, will spell Clark. This is a healthy situation. Elliott is being brought along slowly. Wilson will try to hang on. PERF. QT.: 2.

There is no better young receiver in the league than Curtis. Isaac gives defenders fits now. Think about when he matures. He could use help from the other side to relieve defensive pressure. Steady Myers is brilliant on occasion. Joiner is a speed merchant. But those two only played five games apiece. Trumpy is there when you need him. George and Chandler are talented youngsters. PERF. QT.: 2.

A lot of coaches would love to have these people. There's a lot of them—and they all can play. The Bengal coaching staff felt Holland deserved to be in the Pro Bowl. He's a skilled drive blocker and pass protector. Unobtrusive Johnson has his excellence taken for granted. He's as good as they come. Up-and-down Mayes is the incumbent at left tackle. But Walters, his illness over, will scrap to get a regular place back. Reliable Matson flirted with the WFL. Fest and Shinners are adept messenger guards. The draft brings in Lapham and White with impressive portfolios. Deleone fights to stick. A trade to get rid of the surplus is likely. PERF. QT.: 2.

Muhlmann has some erratic moments but no one is complaining. Lewis is a punter of considerable repute. PERF. QT.: 2.

All-Pro Reid, a savage attacker, is the heart of this group. Carpenter is an underrated stay-at-home type. White can be spectacular—when he's in the mood. But he's often in Coach Brown's doghouse. The presence of top draft choice Kollar—a good one—may wake up Sherman, although the rookie is better suited to play tackle. Berry is inconspicuous, but he's in on an awful lot of tackles. Hefty Johnson is nice to have. Bishop and Thomas are long-shots; they may not even make the team. PERF. QT.: 2.

How much will the Bengals miss middle backer Bill Bergey, banished to Philadelphia after his threatened WFL defection? If they can fill the void, they should be all right. Adams and Kearney are the leading candidates. Pritchard is a head-hunter. Beauchamp may be vulnerable to a challenge. Versatile Avery will be trying to start again. LeClair is capable. Jolitz will get a long look. PERF. QT.: 3.

Despite their economy size, Parrish and Riley handle their positions well. Receptions are surrendered grudgingly. The new rules enhance Lemar as a kick returner. Jackson is eager. PERF. QT.: 2.

Wunderkind Casanova, annoyed by injury, slipped a little last season but should bounce back. He can be superb. Jackson may move from corner to threaten Craig's first-team status. Youthful Jones and Blackwood will learn by watching. PERF. QT.: 3.



CLEVELAND BROWNS



Mike Phipps is still the Browns' quarterback hope.

The Browns are like the circus, a tradition. The names change, but the roles go on. Marion Motley leaves and Jim Brown arrives, followed by Leroy Kelly. One era it's Mac Speedie and Dante Lavelli, the next it's Gary Collins and Paul Warfield.

But the show is in danger of not going on for the Browns these days. The baton isn't being passed without interruption, as it used to be. The pause hasn't been refreshing for owner Art Modell.

What ails the Browns most is their offense. Kelly is getting old and shows it. Late last spring a Cleveland newspaper published a sports editorial in which he was urged to quit. When he wouldn't go gracefully, he was traded to Oakland. The young quarterback, Mike Phipps, hasn't progressed anywhere near the pace at which the Browns would like to see him come along.

Finding solutions to those problems is difficult enough, but when you have to find solutions without losing too much ground to divisional rivals like Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, it can be deadly. The fact is that the Browns are in what may be the toughest division in the National League, and unless they can shore up their soft spots almost immediately, the young Bengals and Steelers could put them in a hole the Clevelanders may take years to climb out of.

To find the Browns' leading rusher

you had to go to the 18th ranking in the American Conference, where the name of Ken Brown was listed. Brown, a comparative unknown, ran for a modest 537 yards.

To find the team's leading pass receiver you had to go down to the 16th ranking in the AFC, where journeyman Frank Pitts finished. He averaged only 10.2 yards on his 31 catches. The other starting wide receiver, Fair Hooker, averaged 10.9 yards on his 18 catches.

The only quarterbacks who ranked below Phipps in the AFC standings were the two rookie starters, Joe Ferguson of Buffalo and Dan Fouts of San Diego, and Dan Pastorini, who has the formidable handicap of playing with the Houston Oilers. Mike had a touchdown-pass-to-interception ratio of 9 to 20.

What to do?

For starters Coach Nick Skorich brought in Dick Wood, one-time quarterback for the Jets, Raiders and other pro clubs, to serve as offensive coordinator. His primary project will be Phipps.

Then there is Greg Pruitt. The Browns looked upon the former Oklahoma star as a novelty, a guy to be used in spot situations, to return punts and the like. But that was until late in the year when their offensive problems overwhelmed them and Pruitt got to play a lot despite his lack of size.

Pruitt almost has to play regularly if

AFC Central Prediction: Third

the Browns are to upgrade their running attack, and he has to prove that his six-yards-a-carry average of his rookie season wasn't a complete fluke.

The solutions to other Cleveland trouble spots in the offense were thought to be found in the draft of the last two years, but that source seems to have gone dry. Last season the Browns thought they had eased their receiving troubles by making Steve Holden their No. 1 pick. Holden caught three passes for 27 yards and there is fear that he'll never make it. There was another first-round draftee, guard Pete Adams of Southern California, but he tore up a knee before he got into the regular season.

This year the top pick was offensive tackle Billy Corbett, but he signed with Toronto of the Canadian League.

One of the big defensive problems was eased last season when the Browns surrendered a No. 1 draft choice for San Diego's Bob Babich. Babich had a knee injury which required post-season surgery, but he still upgraded the linebacking from the middle position.

The biggest difference in the defense could be made by the promotion of defensive backfield coach Richie McCabe to defensive coordinator. McCabe's kind of enthusiasm is contagious and his ideas are futuristic.

The secondary he built is quickly becoming one of the league's best. Cornerbacks Clarence Scott and Thom Darden are an exceptional pair and young Van Green broke in as a smashing safety during his rookie year. There is still hope for a couple of highly drafted youngsters, Jim Stienke and Clifford Brooks.

Finding a defensive end who can put some consistent pressure on the passers is becoming a difficult thing. The coaches are getting impatient with Joe Jones, and the rest of the wingmen are nothing special. This area has suffered since Jack Gregory defected to the Giants.

The middle is better protected, by Walter Johnson and Jerry Sherk, two of the AFC's better tackles.

1973 RECORD (7-5-2)

24 Baltimore	14	3	Minnesota	26
6 Pittsburgh	33	23	Houston	13
12 New York Giants	10	7	Oakland	3
17 Cincinnati	10	21	Pittsburgh	16
9 Miami	17	20	Kansas City	20
42 Houston	13	17	Cincinnati	34
16 San Diego	16	17	Los Angeles	30

SYMBOLS **—Traded
†—Conference leader

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
Phipps	299	148	1719	51	9	20	49.5
Horn	8	4	22	12	1	0	50.0

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	24	22	90
5	0	0	30
5	0	0	30
4	0	0	24
3	0	0	18

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
C. Scott	5	71	1	45	14.2
**Davis	2	33	0	20	16.5
Sumner	2	4	0	4	2.0

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
161	537	0	17	3.3
60	395	5	27	6.6
132	389	3	19	2.9
61	369	4	65	6.0
26	135	0	43	5.2

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
82†	3321	71	40.5

PUNT RETURNS

	Retts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Pruitt	16	180	0	46	11.3
Darden	9	51	0	11	5.7
Lefear	7	51	0	19	7.3

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
31	317	4	26	10.2
26	417	1	51	16.0
22	187	0	46	8.5
18	196	2	26	10.9
15	180	0	36	12.0

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Retts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Pruitt	16	453	0	54	28.3
Lefear	15	337	0	59	22.5

OFFENSE

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
QUARTERBACKS					
Phipps, Mike	6-3	205	26	5	Purdue
Horn, Don	6-2	195	29	8	San Diego State
RUNNING BACKS					
Pruitt, Greg	5-10	190	23	2	Oklahoma
Brown, Ken	5-10	203	28	5	None
Scott, Bo	6-3	215	31	6	Ohio State
Lefear, Billy	5-11	197	24	3	Henderson State
McKinnis, Hugh	6-1	215	26	2	Arizona State
Pritchett, Billy	6-4	245	22	1	West Texas State
RECEIVERS					
Pitts, Frank (W)	6-2	195	30	10	Southern
*Hooker, Fair (W)	6-1	195	27	6	Arizona State
Morin, Milt (T)	6-4	236	31	9	Massachusetts
Richardson, G. (W)	6-2	200	32	8	Jackson State
*Glass, Chip (T)	6-4	235	27	6	Florida State
Holden, Steve (W)	6-1	198	23	2	Arizona State
Herrick, Bob (W)	6-1	189	22	1	Purdue
INTERIOR LINEMEN					
*McKay, Bob (T)	6-5	260	26	5	Texas
Dieken, Doug (T)	6-6	254	25	4	Illinois
Demarie, John (G)	6-3	246	29	8	Louisiana State
Adams, Pete (G-T)	6-4	260	23	1	Southern California
DeMarco, Bob (C)	6-2	248	35	14	Dayton
Morris, Chris (T)	6-3	250	24	3	Indiana
Hutchison, Chuck (G)	6-3	250	25	5	Ohio State
Copeland, Jim (C-G)	6-2	243	29	8	Virginia
Pena, Bubba (G)	6-2	250	25	2	Massachusetts
Sullivan, Gerry (C-T)	6-4	245	22	1	Illinois
KICKER					
Cockroft, Don (Pk-P)	6-1	195	29	7	Adams State

(W)—Wide Receiver	(T)—Tight End
(T)—Tackle	(G)—Guard
(C)—Center	

DEFENSE					
FRONT LINEMEN					
Jones, Joe (E)	6-6	250	26	4	Tennessee State
Roman, Nick (E)	6-3	244	26	5	Ohio State
Johnson, Walter (T)	6-4	265	31	10	Los Angeles State
Sherk, Jerry (T)	6-5	255	26	5	Oklahoma State
Briggs, Bob (E)	6-4	258	29	7	Heidelberg
Barisich, Carl (T)	6-4	255	23	2	Princeton
Ilgenfritz, Mark (E)	6-5	235	22	1	Vanderbilt
Aldridge, Allen (E)	6-6	245	29	3	Prairie View
Sims, Lester (E)	6-4	250	24	1	Alabama State
LINEBACKERS					
Garlington, John (O)	6-1	218	28	7	Louisiana State
Hall, Charley (O)	6-4	225	25	4	Houston
Babich, Bob (M)	6-2	231	27	5	Miami (Ohio)
Andrews, Bill (O)	6-1	220	29	8	S.E. Louisiana
Romaniszyn, J. (O-M)	6-2	224	22	2	Edinboro State
Long, Mel (O)	6-1	228	27	2	Toledo

(E)—End	(T)—Tackle				
LINEBACKERS					
Garlington, John (O)	6-1	218	28	7	Louisiana State
Hall, Charley (O)	6-4	225	25	4	Houston
Babick, Bob (M)	6-2	231	27	5	Miami (Ohio)
Andrews, Bill (O)	6-1	220	29	8	S.E. Louisiana
Romaniszyn, J. (O-M)	6-2	224	22	2	Edinboro State
Long, Mel (O)	6-1	228	27	2	Toledo
(O)—Outside Linebacker		(M)—Middle Linebacker			

SAFETIES					
Summer, Walt (S)	6-1	195	27	6	Florida State
Green, Van (W)	6-1	192	23	2	Shaw
Brown, Eddie (W)	5-11	184	22	1	Tennessee
(S)—Strong-side	(W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety				

Performance Quotients

Disappointing Phipps needs to make giant strides. But he does have star potential. Experienced Horn is okay as No. 2. PERF. QT.: 4.

There was no punch here in '73. Mercurial Pruitt is looked to for a desperately needed energy transfusion. Judging from his kick-return exploits and late-season backfield duty, Greg may be able to do it. But more is needed to make the running game work. Brown is ordinary. Lefear might help. Scott has been plagued by injuries. McKinnis is iffy. Pritchett's knee is doubtful. PERF. QT.: 4.

The help-wanted sign is up. Pitts and Hooker averaged barely over 10 yards per catch last year. They didn't make things any easier for Phipps. Richardson helps, but he's no kid anymore. The Browns agonized over much-heralded Holden. He had a major liability: He simply couldn't catch the ball. They're praying he'll snap out of it. Herrick could be a plus. Morin returned to his usual high-performance level. Glass was hurt, but he's capable. PERF. QT.: 4.

Putting five healthy athletes on the field at one time was difficult last year. The retirement of wily 16-year vet Gene Hickerson creates a void at guard that presumably will be filled by Adams, whose torn-up knee kept him shelved all last season. Injuries also relegated the usually efficient Demarie to the sidelines a lot. Dieken and McKay are a tested young tackle tandem. DeMarco did well, but he's 35. Journeyman Copeland will back him up. Hutchison and Morris are developing. Pena was bitten again by the injury bugaboo. Sullivan, drafted in the seventh round, may be able to contribute. Tackle Billy Corbett, Cleveland's No. 1 draftee, went to Canada. PERF. QT.: 3.

Double-duty Don is one of the club's major assets. PERF. QT.: 2.

Redoubtable tackles Johnson and Sherk supply stability here. Nobody handles them very well very often. However, assistance is desperately needed at end where Jones isn't exactly a model of consistency. Neither he nor average pros Roman and Briggs mounted charges that made too many passers blink. Ivy Leaguer Barisich got to play some and began to adapt to the pro style. Aldridge, a new face in Cleveland, has been kicking around. Ilgenfritz, the fifth-round draft pick, may be able to help. '72 draftee Sims tries again to come back from a leg injury. PERF. QT.: 3.

The acquisition of Babich from the Chargers bolstered a lackluster situation a year ago. Things could be even better this time if off-season surgery removes the gimp from his knee. He's a quality player. Andrews, Hall and Garlington all know what to do on the outside, but none stands out. Romaniszyn is coming along strongly. Long helps on special teams. PERF. QT.: 3.

Under Richie McCabe's tutelage, this secondary became the best young one in the league. Scott is All-Pro material. Darden is getting there but may be even better equipped for his original position, safety. Brooks and Stlenke are improving. PERF. QT.: 2.

Hard-hitting Green was a genuine diamond in the rough. The Browns were elated. Workmanlike Sumner isn't noticed, but he's smart and capable. Brown will try to fit in. PERF. QT.: 3.

HOUSTON OILERS



If Dan Pastorini's protection improves, so will his performance.

One of the memorable pictures on Monday-night television in 1972 showed a man asleep in his Astrodome seat during a game between the Oilers and Oakland early in the season. He may be asleep yet. The Oilers certainly haven't done anything to wake him up.

The Oilers set an NFL record for futility last season, losing 13 games and winning only one. It was a Xerox of their 1972 season.

Things aren't going to get a helluva lot better this season. The Oilers had only two picks in the first six rounds in the last draft. Both of the players they selected signed with the World Football League. Houston traded away most of its early selections for veteran players. Few of them have paid off to date.

What the Oilers do have are a pair of the brightest young quarterbacks in football, Dan Pastorini and Lynn Dickey. But keeping them alive behind the kind of offensive line which Houston has may be tougher than putting them to effective use. In order to find more incompetents than there are in the Oiler offensive line, it might be necessary to go to the Committee to Re-elect The President.

What they don't have would take a week to inventory.

Start with the running game. Fred Willis is an honest plodder, but with the Oilers he's the wheelhorse. He had 579 yards rushing last year but led the AFC

in receiving with 57 catches, which totaled only 371 yards. Speedy Bob Gresham gained 400 yards rushing but George Amundson may get the long look in his second year in Gresham's running back position. The youngster was converted from quarterback, his college position, in his first pro season.

The Oilers also are taking a look at Bill Thomas, the young fullback whose career in Dallas ended when he couldn't shake a chronic shoulder injury.

Wide receivers Billy Parks and Ken Burrough evenly split 86 receptions last year, but the feeling is that the Oilers don't get total effort from them. Both are enormously skilled. Parks can't make up his mind whether football is worthy of his full attention or not; Burrough looks interested on even fewer occasions. The effort put out by the tight ends, Mack Alston and Ron Mayo, is more satisfactory, but the results aren't materially different.

Things like that don't make life easy for Pastorini and Dickey.

Young Brian Goodman is considered a comer at guard by the Houston coaches, and Bill Curry could be a formidable center if he can lick the aftereffects of surgery on his broken leg. But other than these two, the offensive line cupboard is somewhat bare.

Skip Butler, who has kicked around from training camp to training camp for several years, found a haven with the

AFC Central Prediction: Fourth

Oilers. His field goaling reads 15 for 24. His 36 punts averaged 37.3 yards. Pastorini, also a punter, was better—40.3 yards on 27 punts.

Defensively there are worse front fours in the NFL than that fielded by the Oilers. Elvin Bethea is the most experienced man on the line and also the defender of highest quality.

The other end, former Cowboy Tody Smith, has the ability to produce at a high level. The Dallas brass decided he was unlikely to deliver at a consistent rate and nothing he did in Houston last year countered the Dallas argument. The No. 1 pick in last year's draft, huge John Matuszak, immediately broke in as a starting tackle and gave evidence he will be a solid, first-class player.

Both men who shared the other defensive tackle are parts of experiments this year. Al Cowlings will try to transfer his 6-foot-5, 255-pound frame to outside linebacker, where there is not an overflow of All-Pros. Greg Sampson will convert to offensive tackle. The new man who will play alongside Matuszak could be Jim Dunaway, who was claimed from Miami late in the season. He has a back ailment, however.

The linebacking is an almost total jumble.

The most solid performer was Gregg Bingham, who converted from a college down lineman to middle linebacker in his rookie year. He's a workman.

The Oilers traded with New England for Steve Kiner, whose strange hobbies sometimes break his football concentration. There's some question whether he's big enough even when he is paying attention. The names of the rest of the competitors are not impressive; Paul Guidry, who will probably capture the other outside job, is a veteran whose best days are behind him.

Everyone is vulnerable in the secondary. Willie Alexander was a bright prospect at one time, but his reputation is getting tarnished. Joe Blahak doesn't have much speed but he did some good things as a rookie safety.

1973 RECORD (1-13)

14 New York Giants	34	31 Baltimore	27
10 Cincinnati	24	13 Cleveland	23
7 Pittsburgh	36	14 Kansas City	38
26 Los Angeles	31	0 New England	32
20 Denver	48	6 Oakland	17
13 Cleveland	42	7 Pittsburgh	33
14 Chicago	35	24 Cincinnati	27

SYMBOLS †—Conference leader
x—Signed with WFL for 1974

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	21	15	66
5	0	0	30
4	0	0	24
4	0	0	24
3	0	0	18
2	0	0	12

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
4	55	0	27	13.8
4	24	0	19	6.0
3	3	0	3	1.0
2	120	0	87†	60.0

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
171	579	4	25	3.4
104	400	2	52	3.8
34	151	2	22	4.4
31	102	0	17	3.3

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
36	1344	55	37.3
27	1087	59	40.3
22	868	61	39.5

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
16	126	0	74	7.9
14	101	0	44	7.2

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
27	723	1	103†	26.8
28	703	0	47	25.1

PASSING

Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
290	154	1482	50	5	17	53.1
120	71	888	66	6	10	59.2

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
57†	371	1	50	6.5
43	581	1	66	13.5
43	577	2	49	13.4
28	244	1	62	8.7
19	195	4	39	10.3

OFFENSE

Performance Quotients

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
QUARTERBACKS					
Pastorini, Dan	6-2	205	25	4	Santa Clara
Dickey, Lynn	6-3	210	25	4	Kansas State
RUNNING BACKS					
Willis, Fred	6-0	205	27	4	Boston College
Gresham, Bob	5-11	195	26	4	West Virginia
Amundson, George	6-3	215	23	2	Iowa State
Thomas, Bill	6-2	225	25	3	Boston College
*Montgomery, Mike	6-2	210	25	4	Kansas State
Rogers, Willie	6-1	210	25	3	Kentucky State
RECEIVERS					
Parks, Billy (W)	6-1	190	26	4	Long Beach State
Burrough, Ken (W)	6-3	210	26	5	Texas Southern
Alston, Mack (T)	6-3	235	27	5	Maryland State
Mayo, Ron (T)	6-3	223	24	2	Morgan State
Hinton, Eddie (W)	6-0	200	27	6	Oklahoma
Lyman, Brad (W)	6-0	189	23	1	UCLA
(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End					
INTERIOR LINEMEN					
Drungo, Elbert (T)	6-4	265	31	6	Tennessee State
*Carr, Levert (T)	6-2	260	30	6	North Central State
Goodman, Brian (G)	6-2	250	25	2	UCLA
Jones, Harris (G)	6-4	245	29	3	Johnson C. Smith
Curry, Bill (C)	6-2	235	32	10	Georgia Tech
Funchess, Tom (T)	6-5	270	30	7	Jackson State
Lou, Ron (C)	6-2	235	23	2	Arizona State
Miller, Ralph (G)	6-3	260	26	3	Cal Lutheran
Saul, Ron (G)	6-2	255	26	5	Michigan State
Sampson, Greg (T)	6-6	260	24	3	Stanford
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center					
KICKER					
Butler, Skip (Pk-P)	6-0	200	27	4	Texas-Arlington
(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter					
DEFENSE					
FRONT LINEMEN					
Bethea, Elvin (E)	6-2	255	28	7	North Carolina A&T
Smith, Tody (E)	6-5	245	26	4	Southern California
Cowlings, Al (T-E)	6-5	255	27	5	Southern California
Matuszak, John (T)	6-8	290	24	2	Tampa
Fanucci, Mike (E)	6-4	239	25	3	Arizona State
Dunaway, Jim (T)	6-4	277	33	12	Mississippi
(E)—End (T)—Tackle					
LINEBACKERS					
Guldry, Paul (O)	6-0	227	30	9	McNeese State
Kiner, Steve (O)	6-1	220	27	4	Tennessee
Bingham, Gregg (M)	6-1	230	23	2	Purdue
Cunningham, Dick (M)	6-2	238	30	7	Arkansas
Cindrich, Ralph (O)	6-1	230	25	3	Pittsburgh
Roberts, Guy (O)	6-1	217	24	3	Maryland
Stincic, Tom (M)	6-3	230	27	5	Michigan
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker					
CORNERBACKS					
Moore, Zeke	6-3	196	31	8	Lincoln
Alexander, Willie	6-3	190	25	4	Alcorn A&M
Johnson, Benny	5-10	177	26	5	Johnson C. Smith
Fairley, Leonard	6-0	192	22	1	Alcorn A&M
SAFETIES					
Severson, Jeff (S)	6-0	185	25	3	Long Beach State
Atkins, Bob (W)	6-3	210	28	7	Grambling
Blahak, Joe (W)	5-9	181	24	2	Nebraska
Charles, John (S)	6-0	200	30	8	Purdue
Eaglin, Larry (S)	6-3	193	26	2	S.F. Austin
Carwell, Larry (W)	6-1	181	30	8	Iowa State
(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety					

Pastorini should sue for lack of support. Dan has talent—and moxie. Dickey has one thing in mind: to start. PERF. QT.: 3.

Mediocrity abounds. Workhorse Willis led the team in rushing and the AFC in receiving to no great avail—a combined average of 4.2 yards. Speedster Gresham sparkles here and there. But Paul Robinson defected to the WFL, and Mel Farr, acquired in a trade, retired. The switch from quarterback has been rough for Amundson. Injuries nag Thomas. Rodgers and Montgomery are fair at best. PERF. QT.: 4.

The wide receivers are among the club's few pluses. Burrough can be very hot—and very cold. Sure-handed Parks has everything but blinding speed—and desire. He scored just once, Burrough twice. Then, too, there isn't much time to run pass routes. Hinton once excelled with the Colts. Alston, Mayo try but are nothing special. Lyman, out last year with a knee injury, has potential. PERF. QT.: 3.

What a mess! A quantity of bodies—28 on the training camp roster—with little quality. And the draft was nonexistent. Injuries were devastating. No fewer than six players were felled for most of the campaign. Where do you begin to reorganize? Curry is a solid pro, but he's coming off leg surgery. So is Lou. Jones, Saul and Miller were hurt, to boot. The tackle position is swimming—or is it drowning?—in depth. Drungo still has possibilities. Carr and Funchess have been around—but it often doesn't show. Sampson, answering the SOS, came from defense. Coach Gillman speaks highly of Goodman. PERF. QT.: 5.

Butler is barely efficient. Pastorini punts better. PERF. QT.: 4.

On paper, this array is pretty respectable. Bethea earned his third straight Pro Bowl berth. He's disgruntled but can give migraines to offensive linemen—as well as Oiler brass. Smith can be super—if he happens to be motivated. Highly touted Matuszak wasn't as physical as expected. Cowlings may switch to linebacker. Dunaway is getting old for full-time duty. Fanucci gets by. PERF. QT.: 3.

This is a turbulent area. To begin with, it would help if they all got acquainted. Kiner, let go by three clubs, came via a trade. He can contribute if he gets himself together. Guidry is knowledgeable, but he has been slowed by back miseries. Bingham did decently after learning a new position. Cunningham, formerly with the Bills and Eagles, likes to hit but is fragile. Cindrich, Roberts and Stincic are journeymen—to an uncertain destination. PERF. QT.: 4.

Moore, Alexander and Johnson have the tools and have shown they know how to use them. They cover the pass well. The big trouble is that nobody closes on the run. There's room for oodles of improvement. Fairley is an unknown quantity. PERF. QT.: 4.

Plenty of candidates populate deep-six country—but can they shut off the deep six? Every play is an adventure. Severson does all right. Atkins, Eaglin and Charles were injured a lot. What ever happened to the Charles we knew at Purdue? Blahak showed promise; he'll get a good shot. One-time regular Carwell was scrounged from the Buffalo taxi squad. There's an identity crisis here. PERF. QT.: 4.

OAKLAND RAIDERS



Ken Stabler is a threat running as well as passing.

Three things that occurred within a month last spring could alter the caliber of the Oakland Raiders' challenge in the American Football Conference this season.

The first was the signing of a World Football League contract by Ken Stabler, the young lefthander who had wrested away the No. 1 quarterback assignment from Daryle Lamonica just last season. He will join Birmingham of the WFL in 1976.

The second was Lamonica's defection. He signed a contract with the Southern California Sun of the WFL for 1975 delivery.

The third was the adoption of new rules—including one which, in effect, bans the bump and run pass defense—by the National Football League owners. The Raiders have virtually lived by the bump and run in the past.

Just how Stabler's and Lamonica's lame-duck status will change things on the Raiders remains to be seen. Dissension is an ongoing malady in Raiderland and there are Stabler and Lamonica factions on the squad already.

Al Davis, the managing partner and chief rationalizer, says morale is overrated anyway, and points to baseball's Oakland Athletics as an example of his reasoning. Davis also points out that 1976 is a long time away when discussing Stabler's WFL future, but to hedge his bets he signed strong-armed taxi-

squader Don Milan to a fat, long-term contract.

Bump and run isn't the entire Oakland pass defense, but it's a big enough portion to have its banishment cause serious problems. The Raider cornerbacks, Willie Brown and Nemiah Wilson, are on the shady side of 30, so any radical alteration in their style might cause serious weaknesses.

Now for the good news.

The Raiders have enough talent and experience on their roster to overcome most alterations in the rules and to benefit from many. For instance, the relief voted to the pass receivers by the owners should help the likes of Mike Siani and Fred Biletnikoff penetrate opposition zones. Coach John Madden also would like to unleash ultra-speedy Cliff Branch on the enemy.

Stabler, assuming his WFL future doesn't interfere with his psyche, is the ideal quarterback to work against the zones. He has patience, accuracy, intelligence and a growing maturity.

The running back tandem of Marv Hubbard and Charley Smith is experienced and efficient, but Smith may have trouble keeping jet-propelled Clarence Davis on the timber this year. Davis has won increased playing time in each of his three seasons and made the most of it. The addition of veteran Leroy Kelly, acquired from Cleveland, for spot duty won't hurt.

AFC West Prediction: First

The new rules which put a premium on punting will help the Raiders. Ray Guy was a super rookie for them last year, justifying their gamble when they made him a No. 1 draft choice. With the emphasis shifting to accurate field goal kickers and not necessarily long-distance ones, George Blanda may be able to play into his dotage.

Oakland's offensive line, peopled by the likes of guard Gene Upshaw and tackle Art Shell, do the job on pass protection or on blocking for the run.

Defensively the Raiders rank with the finest NFL clubs. It was a measure of their strength that huge Bubba Smith, who came to the club in the blockbuster trade for tight end Raymond Chester, couldn't break into the starting lineup. At first it was the aftereffects of Bubba's knee surgery, but later on it was just a question of Horace Jones playing better.

Few NFL tackle combinations function as smoothly or are deadly as Otis Sistrunk and Art Thoms. Both of them have the quickness and speed to take off after a passer. The other end, Tony Cline, serves as the utility man—playing linebacker or end—in Oakland's copy of Miami's "53" defense.

Raider linebacking has been shored up considerably in the last couple of years. Phil Villapiano is reaching for All-Pro status and now Gerald Irons is approaching that stature after just a season and a half of starting on the outside.

Dan Connors is enjoying a renaissance as the middle linebacker. When he starts showing his age, the expectation is that Irons will move into the middle with Monte Johnson, who converted from college defensive tackle in his rookie season, taking Gerry's place.

Brown and Wilson enjoyed good seasons in '73, but there is that question about the bump and run ban. Skip Thomas may be ready to step in for someone.

Jack Tatum is one of the league's finest defensive players from his free safety spot and George Atkinson has speed and savvy on the other side.

1973 RECORD (10-5-1)

16 Minnesota	24	3 Cleveland	7
12 Miami	7	31 San Diego	3
3 Kansas City	16	17 Houston	6
17 St. Louis	10	37 Kansas City	7
27 San Diego	17	21 Denver	17
23 Denver	23	(Playoff)	
34 Baltimore	21	33 Pittsburgh	14
42 New York Giants	0	(AFC Championship)	
9 Pittsburgh	17	10 Miami	27

SYMBOLS *—Traded
†—Conference leader

PASSING

	Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
†Stabler	260	163	1997	80†	14	10	62.7†
Lamonica	93	42	614	48	2	8	45.2

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	31	23	100
6	0	0	36
5	0	0	30
4	0	0	24
4	0	0	24
4	0	0	24

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
193	903	6	50	4.7
173	682	4	19	3.9
116	609	4	32	5.3
34	198	0	26	5.8

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
48	660	4	32	13.8
45	742	3	80†	16.5
34	375	4	33	11.0
28	260	1	20	9.3
19	290	3	54	15.3

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
3	48	0	36	16.0
3	28	0	20	9.3
3	-1	0	0	-0.3

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
68	3127	72	45.3

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
41†	336	1	63	8.1
4	8	0	9	2.0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
19	504	0	76	26.5
14	350	0	36	25.0

OFFENSE

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
QUARTERBACKS					
**Stabler, Ken	6-3	215	28	5	Alabama
*Lamonica, Daryle	6-3	215	33	12	Notre Dame
Milan, Don	6-2	190	25	1	Cal Poly
RUNNING BACKS					
Hubbard, Marv	6-1	225	28	6	Colgate
Smith, Charlie	6-0	205	28	7	Utah
Davis, Clarence	5-10	195	25	4	Southern California
Banaszak, Pete	5-11	210	30	9	Miami (Fla.)
Kelly, Leroy	6-0	202	32	11	Morgan State
Queen, Jeff	6-1	217	28	6	Morgan State
Van Eeghen, Mark	6-2	214	22	1	Colgate
RECEIVERS					
Biletnikoff, Fred (W)	6-1	190	31	10	Florida State
Siani, Mike (W)	6-2	195	24	3	Villanova
Moore, Bob (T)	6-3	220	25	4	Stanford
Branch, Cliff (W)	5-11	170	26	3	Colorado
Bankston, Warren (T)	6-4	235	27	6	Tulane
Sweeney, Steve (W)	6-3	205	23	2	California
Casper, Dave (T)	6-3	243	22	1	Notre Dame
(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End					
INTERIOR LINEMEN					
Brown, Bob (T)	6-4	280	32	11	Nebraska
Shell, Art (T)	6-5	265	27	7	Md.-Eastern Shore
Upshaw, Gene (G)	6-5	255	29	8	Texas A&I
Buehler, George (G)	6-2	260	27	6	Stanford
Otto, Jim (C)	6-2	255	36	15	Miami (Fla.)
Vella, John (T)	6-4	255	24	3	Southern California
Dalby, Dave (C-G)	6-2	240	23	3	UCLA
Lawrence, Henry (T)	6-4	253	22	1	Florida A&M
Seiler, Paul (C-T)	6-4	260	28	6	Notre Dame
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center					
KICKERS					
Blanda, George (Pk)	6-2	215	46	25	Kentucky
Guy, Ray (P)	6-3	190	24	2	Southern Miss.
(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter					

Performance Quotients

Stabler is the prototype contemporary quarterback, and Daryle still can unleash the bomb. But both have WFL commitments. So Milan becomes the man of the near future. PERF. QT.: 1.

Not inclined to much finesse, the Raider infantry prefers to bare-knuckle you to death. Hubbard is a relentless bludgeon. If there's a flaw, it's his pass catching. Smith is another man who gets tough yards. Davis is adept at delivering the knockout punch, and he'll press Smith for starting duty. Banaszak doesn't embarrass himself. Kelly is passable as a fill-in. Queen can double at tight end. And there's Van Eeghen, an interesting rookie. PERF. QT.: 2.

Despite double coverage, the Biletnikoff-Siani duo made 93 receptions for 1,402 yards and seven touchdowns. They know how to get open—and make those crucial first downs. Moore doesn't make defenders wring their hands, but he did catch 34 passes and score four times. Branch has super speed and should get wiser. Ex-Steeler Bankston could find himself demoted because of Casper, the second draft choice. Young Sweeney may quit football. PERF. QT.: 1.

Experience and know-how ooze from this bunch; therein lies the basis for Oakland's prowess moving the ball. Leg miseries plague the no-longer-young Brown. But when in tune, he's the NFL's best combination of an irresistible force-immovable object. Vella is an eager, powerful stand-in. Shell is consistently effective. All-Pro Upshaw and unsung Buehler batter defenders play after play after play. Dalby is ready in the wings to replace Otto—but Jim isn't letting up after 196 straight games. Top draftee Lawrence will have to start learning by osmosis. Seiler is a plugger. PERF. QT.: 1.

Looking for Methuselah? He's right here. Old Man Blanda is still kicking—rather well. Guy is only a kid, but superb. PERF. QT.: 2.

The fact that Bubba is on the bench should tip you off about the quality that is in residence here. Even if he gets his gimpy knee together, he'll have to do fierce combat with Jones in order to start. Jones, Thoms, Sistrunk and the versatile Cline can stonewall it or be fluid—whatever most frustrates the opposition. Korver is developing and should be ready to contribute. PERF. QT.: 2.

If the clever veteran Connors keeps plugging away with is accustomed vigor, there shouldn't be any worries. Villapiano is a constantly improving young Turk of All-Pro stock. Irons turned in his first full season as a front-liner and was consistently impressive. Should Connors falter, Gerald will take the middle and Johnson the outside. Carroll and Weaver are progressing. PERF. QT.: 2.

Life begins at 30—that's the way Brown and Wilson play. But how long can they both go on like that? If rigor mortis begins to set in, the Raider armor will have a great big chink. Only Thomas is ready to step in. Warren is too old. PERF. QT.: 2.

Miami's Jake Scott is the only reason Tatum isn't a consensus All-Pro. Jack's simply magnificent. Atkinson covers his ground ably. Fresh faces in reserve here and at corners would be welcome. Allen is a journeyman. Rookie Wessel has a chance. PERF. QT.: 2.

*—WFL 1975

**—WFL 1976



DENVER BRONCOS



Floyd Little is led by Larron Jackson, 68, and Marv Montgomery.

Charley Johnson is like one of those old guys in the business-page ads, the ones who succeed in "finding a second career." The ads are aimed at older men who are pink-slipped by the bank they served for decades as assistant vice-presidents, then look to salvage themselves by getting retrained and ending up as general manager of Amalgamated Envelopes, Ltd.

John Ralston, the forward-thinking Denver Bronco coach, was Johnson's retraining mentor. Ralston took Charley and pumped him back up to the status of winning quarterback after he had been pink-slipped by the St. Louis Cardinals and Houston Oilers.

The Broncos, as a result, score like mad. They scored 354 points last year. That's 123 better than the Kansas City Chiefs, the team they leap-frogged to finish second in the AFC West. That's the highest finish and their 7-5-2 won-lost record was the best for the Broncos since they started playing professional football almost 15 years ago.

Johnson finished first among AFC quarterbacks in touchdown passes with 20 and second in yardage, 2,465. His passing and play calling gave the Broncos as much offensive versatility as any club in the league. Maybe the team is putting too many eggs in his basket as it shoots for the playoff moon this season, but on the other hand, in these days of a diluted quarterback market (thanks to the World

Football League), who else is there to turn to?

Johnson is knee deep in skilled cohorts. Riley Odoms emerged as one of the sport's ranking tight ends last year, just his second in pro football. Odoms caught 43 passes, scored seven touchdowns and blocked hard.

Haven Moses caught just 28 passes, but eight of them were for touchdowns and he had a per-catch average of 18.5 yards. He also was selected for the Pro Bowl. Jerry Simmons and Gene Washington duel for the other wide spot and both of them are capable pro football players.

With Johnson passing so well, the running of Floyd Little is all the more effective. The veteran halfback scooted for 979 yards, fifth in the AFC. He also caught 41 passes. Joe Dawkins was the surprise, picking up 706 yards in his role alongside Little.

The Broncos offer some of the brightest young offensive linemen in the league. Marv Montgomery broke a leg in mid-season last year, but fully mended he is a first-class player. So is Jarron Jackson, the hefty guard who switched over to assume Montgomery's tackle job after the injury.

Jim Turner is the kind of dependable short field goal kicker who should flourish under the new rules. His kickoff shortcomings will be magnified, however. Bill Van Heusen's punting

AFC West

Prediction: Second

ability will come in handy under the NFL's new deal.

Defense, particularly the up-front variety, used to be the Broncos' game and their 36 sacks of last season demonstrate that it hasn't gone into decline, by any means.

Tackle Paul Smith gains more support every season in his bid to be recognized as a superstar. In his unorthodox way he is as effective as the very best. Pete Duranko is solid alongside him with Lyle Alzado providing the flash from his end position. He is a flamboyant pass rusher. Barney Chavous broke into the starting lineup as an end in his rookie season and now No. 2 draftee Carl Wafer of Tennessee State, a tackle, joins the club as a top prospect.

The linebacking could be rearranged, courtesy of the draft. The No. 1 choice was Randy Gradishar, twice an All-America at Ohio State. Gradishar is projected almost exclusively as a middle linebacker and most think he can step in and start now.

If he can handle the switch to the pros, that might cause Tom Graham to be shifted to the outside. Graham is a head-hunter type who had some big moments last year. Ray May, one of the banished Baltimore Colts, located some of his prime in Denver. He played well. If Graham is to dislodge anyone, it probably would be Bill Laskey, another former Colt.

The brightest spot in the secondary is at free safety, where Bill Thompson, a speedy big-play man, roams. Thompson could reach the Grade AAA level in the NFL this season. He is also a handy man on punt and kickoff returns.

Charley Greer is Thompson's cohort at strong safety.

The Broncos sent a draft choice to Pittsburgh for veteran cornerback John Rowser, in what looks like a good deal for Denver. He may dislodge starter Leroy Mitchell. Little Calvin Jones won the hearts of the fans and the coaching staff in his rookie season at the other cornerback position.

1973 RECORD (7-5-2)

28 Cincinnati	10	17 St. Louis	17
34 San Francisco	36	30 San Diego	19
14 Chicago	33	23 Pittsburgh	13
14 Kansas City	16	14 Kansas City	10
48 Houston	20	10 Dallas	22
23 Oakland	23	42 San Diego	28
40 New York Jets	28	17 Oakland	21

SYMBOLS †—Conference leader
††—Tied for conference lead

PASSING							
	Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
Johnson	346	184	2465	62	20†	17	53.2
Ramsey	27	10	194	76	2	2	37.0

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	40†	22	106
13†	0	0	78
9	0	0	54
7	0	0	42
3	0	0	21

INTERCEPTIONS

	Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Jones	4	69	0	31	17.3
Thompson	3	96	1	59	32.0
Mitchell	2	43	1	40	21.5
Laskey	2	3	0	3	1.5

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
256	979	12††	47	3.8
160	706	2	72	4.4
26	90	0	24	3.5

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
69	3114	78†	45.1

PUNT RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Thompson	30	366†	0	53	12.2
Tyler	4	20	0	6	5.0

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
Armstrong	20	472	0	50	23.6
Dawkins	10	222	0	31	22.2

OFFENSE

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
QUARTERBACKS					
Johnson, Charley	6-1	200	35	14	New Mexico State
Ramsey, Steve	6-2	210	26	5	North Texas State
RUNNING BACKS					
Little, Floyd	5-10	196	32	8	Syracuse
Dawkins, Joe	6-2	223	26	5	Wisconsin
Armstrong, Otis	5-10	196	23	2	Purdue
Anderson, Bobby	6-0	212	27	5	Colorado
Ross, Oliver	6-0	210	25	2	Alabama A&M
Keyworth, Jon	6-3	230	24	1	Colorado
RECEIVERS					
Moses, Haven (W)	6-2	208	29	6	San Diego State
Washington, Gene (W)	6-3	205	28	8	Michigan State
Odums, Riley (T)	6-4	230	24	3	Houston
Simmons, Jerry (W)	6-1	190	31	10	Bethune Cookman
Masters, Billy (T)	6-5	240	30	8	Louisiana State
Winesberry, John (W)	6-1	190	22	1	Stanford
INTERIOR LINEMEN					
Montgomery, Marv (T)	6-6	255	27	4	Southern California
Current, Mike (T)	6-4	270	29	8	Ohio State
Jackson, Larron (G)	6-3	270	25	4	Missouri
Lyons, Tommy (G)	6-2	230	26	4	Georgia
Maples, Bobby (C)	6-3	250	31	10	Baylor
Howard, Paul (G)	6-3	260	24	2	Brigham Young
Goeddeke, George (C)	6-3	253	29	8	Notre Dame
Schnitker, Mike (G)	6-3	245	27	6	Colorado
Askea, Mike (T)	6-4	260	23	2	Stanford
Minor, Claude (T)	6-4	285	23	1	San Diego State

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End
(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center
KICKERS
Turner, Jim (Pk) 6-2 205 33 11 Utah State
Van Heusen, Billy (P) 6-1 200 28 7 Maryland
(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN					
Alzado, Lyle (E)	6-3	265	25	4	Yankton (S.D.)
Chavous, Barney (E)	6-3	252	27	2	South Carolina St.
Smith, Paul (T)	6-3	256	29	7	New Mexico
Duranko, Pete (T)	6-2	250	29	8	Notre Dame
Grant, John (E)	6-3	235	24	2	Southern California
Wafer, Carl (T)	6-5	256	22	1	Tennessee State
Domres, Tom (T)	6-3	260	28	7	Wisconsin
LINEBACKERS					
May, Ray (O)	6-1	230	29	8	Southern California
Laskey, Bill (O)	6-3	230	31	9	Michigan
Graham, Tom (M)	6-2	235	24	3	Oregon
Gradishar, Randy (M)	6-3	236	22	1	Ohio State
Jackson, Tom (O)	5-11	220	23	2	Louisville
Simone, Mike (O)	6-0	210	24	3	Stanford
CORNERBACKS					
Jones, Calvin	5-7	169	23	2	Washington
Mitchell, Leroy	6-1	190	30	7	Texas Southern
Rowser, John	6-1	190	30	8	Michigan
Montgomery, Randy	5-11	182	26	5	Weber State
Collier, Ozell	5-9	175	23	1	Colorado

(E)—End (T)—Tackle
(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker
SAFETIES
Thompson, Bill (S) 6-1 201 28 6 Maryland
Greer, Charles (W) 6-0 205 28 7 Colorado
Pitts, John (S) 6-4 218 29 8 Arizona State
Tyler, Maurice (W) 6-0 188 24 3 Morgan State
(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

Rise of the Broncos parallels the resurrection of the astute Johnson. But he'll be 36. Ramsey is substandard. PERF. QT.: 3.

Few are admired as much as bow-legged Floyd. He keeps charging at you—but for how much longer? Underrated Dawkins was a pleasant surprise. Armstrong, brimming with promise, still has to earn his spurs. Anderson is capable but hasn't been the second coming of Paul Hornung. Ross is a spear-carrier. Watch Keyworth; he can play a lot of positions but always seems to be injured. PERF. QT.: 2.

The primary targets are outstanding. They exploit zone seams and can wriggle open deep. Moses poses a continual threat. And Simmons gained even more per reception. Washington, who came from the Vikings, doesn't intend to keep gathering bench splinters. Odums is a legitimate All-Pro. Masters is a competent reserve. Winesberry is well thought of. PERF. QT.: 2.

These boxcars carried the freight for a 354-point offense, best in the AFC and No. 3 in the NFL. With maturity has come respect—and efficiency. Montgomery's broken leg is mended. He has come of age and holds no one in awe. Current is conscientious. Massive Jackson is now among the league's best at his position. Lyons moved ahead of Howard but will have to keep performing well to stay there. No complaints are heard about Maples. Schnitker and injury-plagued Goeddeke have what it takes to start, too. Askea is serving his apprenticeship. Enter the mammoth Minor. There doesn't seem to be much reason to fret. PERF. QT.: 2.

In capable hands—er, feet. Turner was 22 for 33 in field goals. Van Heusen's punts averaged 45.1 yards. PERF. QT.: 2.

No cute nickname here, just brawlers who get their kicks from bashing bodies—particularly when they belong to quarterbacks. Smith is surely among the league's prime tackles; he may be the best. Alzado is a terror when psyched up, when his most of the time. Durable Duranko keeps things from getting out of hand. Chavous asserted himself as rookie. Grant is willing. Wafer is a solid addition. Domres seeks employment after season-long disability. PERF. QT.: 2.

This area of vulnerability was shored up with the acquisition of May and Laskey from the Colts. More assistance is expected in the person of top-draftee Gradishar, who hopefully will shed his knee miseries. He locks horns with Graham, the head-knocker who, if Randy prevails, will set sights on Laskey's outside spot. Jackson is a creditable substitute. Simone is functional. PERF. QT.: 3.

Jones, though tiny, was one of the NFL's more productive rookies. He's sure to get better. On the other side it'll be either Rowser, a transplanted Steeler, or Mitchell. Both are hard players. Inconsistency bugs Montgomery. If that isn't remedied, he'll be gone. Little Collier has big possibilities. PERF. QT.: 3.

A great deal of praise flows Thompson's way. He came into his own after the switch from cornerback. Greer certainly is not a fixture, but neither can he be labeled a liability. Buffalo alumni Pitts and Tyler are battle tested and ready when called. PERF. QT.: 3.



KANSAS CITY CHIEFS



Ed Podolak gets ready to block for Wendell Hayes.

The Kansas City Chiefs are counting on their draft. Counting on it may be weak phrasing. The Chiefs find it essential, vital, for their top picks to come through as quickly as possible.

Kansas City has fired too many blanks at draft time in recent seasons, and it has caught up with the team. High choices were spent to guard against the day that the veteran offensive linemen would go over the hill. That day has been here for two years and the men who came in the draft didn't do much to ease the problem. Fullbacks and wide receivers were drafted to give the offense a modern, diversified look. Instead, the Chiefs wheeze along like an outdated steam engine.

Coach Hank Stram can't afford to have that happen any more.

The Chiefs' No. 1 draftee, Arizona State running back Woody Green, must become an immediate star, much less an immediate starter, if the Chiefs are to get back into serious contention in the Western Division of the American Conference. When the owners changed the hash-mark rule in 1972, opening the door for swift, corner-turning runners, Kansas City found itself with no one to capitalize on that development. It has killed them.

Green has the speed, size and movement to prosper as a modern NFL running back. It's almost a foregone conclusion in Kansas City that he must become

an essential part of the attack in his rookie year.

The Chiefs drafted four men they thought would contribute heavily to the future. The most obvious is Green. The one who definitely won't is Minnesota defensive end Matt Herkenhoff, who spurned KC to sign with the New York Stars of the World Football League. The other two are Charles Getty and David Jaynes.

Getty is one of those good offensive tackles that Penn State turns out periodically. Considering the creaky condition of the Chiefs' offensive line, it would not be wild to see Getty starting at guard or tackle in his rookie season. It's a question of his inexperience against the slowness and eroding skills of a couple of veterans.

Jaynes is the All-America quarterback from Kansas. He won't be a large factor this season, but last year 39-year-old Lenny Dawson missed the last half of the season due to injuries and the Chiefs have to be weaned away from him eventually. Mike Livingston sometimes looks like the heir apparent and sometimes looks like a journeyman.

Stram is installing some special sprint-out plays for Livingston, but he may find out that the long-range future is with Jaynes.

Assuming that Green will be in the starting lineup, there may be a mad scramble to see who plays alongside him.

AFC West Prediction: Third

Wendell Hayes is the veteran incumbent, but Ed Podolak may move over to assume his role. Willie Ellison came to KC in a trade, but then got hurt and played little. Jeff Kinney is another No. 1 draftee who hasn't made a dent yet.

The new rules which liberalize the way for a wide receiver could release Otis Taylor from bondage. Stram's project is to find more like him. Elmo Wright has been so-so as a pro and the tight end, Gary Butler, wasn't all that impressive as a rookie starter last year.

Center Jack Rudnay is the youngest and most consistent lineman. Getty won't be the only challenger up front. George Daney has been trying to get steady work for years and the Chiefs' coaches profess great interest in former Giant Wayne Walton as either a guard or tackle and in young Bill Story.

Defensively the strongest area is linebacking, where a genuine superstar, Willie Lanier, roams in the middle and Jim Lynch plays steadily next to him. Clyde Werner makes another stab at winning the job of aging (though still efficient) Bobby Bell.

There could be movement at the corners, too. Nate Allen beat out Jim Marsalis, once an All-Pro, at cornerback last year. Marsalis is too young to be counted out. Emmitt Thomas is first-rate but could be lost with the new rules which outlaw a lot of contact. Emmitt is a pushy fellow.

Jim Kearney is a competent strong safety, but Mike Sensibaugh still suffers from comparison to the Chiefs' all-time star, Johnny Robinson, at the free safety position.

There is some age and some inconsistency up front. Curley Culp is a stud at tackle, and on the days when Buck Buchanan doesn't feel his age, he can be great. The hard-chargers at ends are Wilbur Young and Marvin Upshaw.

The specialties, so important under the revised rules this year, are well taken care of by placekicker Jan Stenerud, punter Jerrel Wilson, who led the NFL, and kick returner Larry Marshall.

1973 RECORD (7-5-2)

13 Los Angeles	23	19 San Diego	0
10 New England	7	19 Chicago	7
16 Oakland	3	38 Houston	14
16 Denver	14	10 Denver	14
10 Green Bay	10	20 Cleveland	20
6 Cincinnati	14	7 Oakland	37
14 Buffalo	23	33 San Diego	6

SYMBOLS †—Conference leader
x—Signed with WFL for 1974

SCORING

TDs	PATs	FGs	Total
0	21	24	93
4	0	0	24
3	0	0	18
2	0	0	12

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
3	65	0	33	21.7
3	58	0	27	19.3
3	47	1	29	15.7
3	30	0	24	10.0

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
211	721	3	25	3.4
108	411	2	19	3.8
95	352	2	27	3.7
50	128	1	8	2.6

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
80	3642†	68	45.5†

PUNT RETURNS

Retrs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
29	180	0	31	6.2
11	90	0	48	8.2

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
55	445	0	25	8.1
34	565	4	46	16.6
18	134	0	27	7.4
16	252	2	44	15.8
12	216	2	48	18.0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Retrs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
14	391	0	38	27.9
8	146	0	29	18.3

PASSING

Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
145	75	916	48	6	7	51.7
101	66	725	48	2	5	65.3
64	31	389	44	2	1	48.4

OFFENSE

Performance Quotients

	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
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QUARTERBACKS

Livingston, Mike	6-4	212	28	7	SMU
Dawson, Lenny	6-0	190	39	18	Purdue
Jaynes, David	6-2	212	22	1	Kansas

RUNNING BACKS

Green, Woody	6-1	202	22	1	Arizona State
Podolak, Ed	6-1	204	27	6	Iowa
Hayes, Wendell	6-1	220	34	10	Humboldt State
Ellison, Willie	6-2	210	28	8	Texas Southern
Kinney, Jeff	6-2	215	23	3	Nebraska
Butler, James	5-10	185	31	10	Edward Waters

RECEIVERS

Taylor, Otis (W)	6-3	215	32	10	Prairie View
Wright, Elmo (W)	6-0	190	25	4	Houston
Butler, Gary (T)	6-4	234	23	2	Rice
Smith, Dave (W)	6-2	205	27	5	Indiana St. (Pa.)
West, Robert (W)	6-4	218	23	3	San Diego State
Stroud, Morris (T)	6-10	255	28	6	Clark

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

Hill, Dave (T)	6-5	260	33	12	Auburn
Tyrer, Jim (T)	6-6	280	35	14	Ohio State
Budde, Ed (G)	6-5	265	34	12	Michigan State
Moorman, Mo (G)	6-5	252	29	7	Texas A&M
Rudnay, Jack (C)	6-3	240	26	5	Northwestern
Peay, Francis (T)	6-5	250	29	9	Missouri
Getty, Charley (T-G)	6-4	260	22	1	Penn State
Walton, Wayne (G-T)	6-5	245	25	3	Abilene Christian
Daney, George (G)	6-3	240	28	7	Texas-El Paso
Story, Bill (G)	6-3	255	22	1	Southern Illinois
Oriadi, Mike (C)	6-4	223	26	5	Notre Dame

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

Stenerud, Jan (Pk)	6-2	187	31	8	Montana State
Wilson, Jerrel (P)	6-2	222	33	12	Southern Miss.

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

Upshaw, Marvin (E)	6-4	260	27	7	Trinity (Tex.)
Young, Wilbur (E)	6-6	285	25	4	William Penn
Buchanan, Buck (T)	6-7	270	34	12	Grambling
Culp, Curley (T)	6-1	265	28	7	Arizona State
Hegge, Leroy (E)	6-7	265	22	1	Southern State (S.D.)
Seals, George (T)	6-3	260	31	11	Missouri
Calloway, Ernie (E)	6-6	253	27	6	Texas Southern

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

Lynch, Jim (O-M)	6-1	235	29	8	Notre Dame
Bell, Bobby (O)	6-4	228	34	12	Minnesota
Lanier, Willie (M)	6-1	245	29	8	Morgan State
Werner, Clyde (O)	6-4	225	26	5	Washington
Palewicz, Al (O)	6-1	215	23	2	Miami (Fla.)

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

Allen, Nate	5-10	170	26	4	Texas Southern
Thomas, Emmitt	6-2	192	31	9	Bishop
Marsalis, Jim	5-11	194	28	6	Tennessee State
Reardon, Kerry	5-11	180	25	4	Iowa
Marshall, Larry	5-11	195	24	3	Maryland

SAFETIES

Kearney, Jim (S)	6-2	206	31	10	Prairie View
Sensibaugh, Mike (W)	5-11	192	25	4	Ohio State
Jones, Doug (W-S)	6-0	185	22	2	San Fernando Valley

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Coach Stram will call all of the plays. So-so Livingston is penciled in for sprint-out maneuvers. Dawson perseveres but may have had it at last. Jaynes' education will be accelerated. PERF. QT.: 4.

Much faith is being placed in Green to lead the foot soldiers from out of the wilderness. He will inject a large dose of a heretofore nonexistent element—speed—into KC's attack. Now to find a partner of similar stature. Podolak earns merit badges for sheer sticktoitiveness. Ellison returns from injury. Patience is wearing thin with Kinney. Hayes is an aging plodder. Butler won't do. PERF. QT.: 3.

With bump and run tactics curtailed by the new rules, Taylor's value magnifies. But defenses will still overload on him without help from the other side. Wright's there but can use a lot of polish. Smith came from Houston. Maybe he's the answer. West is nothing very special. Butler does nice work blocking but he has lots to learn. Should Stroud have tried basketball after all? PERF. QT.: 3.

Shh . . . listen closely. That's the sound of bones creaking. Only louder than before. Yesiree, this is Geritol country. Once-redoubtable Tyrer, Budde and Hill are ready for the scrap heap. On the infrequent occasions when Moorman is in tip-top shape, he's a very rough customer. Rudnay is the lone rugged mainstay. Oriadi is a secure backup. A transfusion, you ask? Not very likely from retread Peay. Walton, an ex-Giant, and No. 2 draftee Getty are more probable contributors. Daney gamely tries to get together again. Story has much to learn. The telltale sign will be if the oldsters start; if they do, Stram has concluded that the youngsters aren't good enough—and that means trouble. PERF. QT.: 4.

Stenerud sometimes makes you wonder, but he deserves his place in the top echelon. Wilson is without peer. PERF. QT.: 1.

The way old-timer Buchanan roughs up people, you'd never think he's reached the ripe old age of 34. Time has taken its toll, yes, but it's still awfully hard to move him out of the way. Culp, mobile and difficult to check, is in his prime. Seals is nice to have in reserve. Calloway is on the comeback trail after knee surgery. Upshaw is a hitter. Youthful Young is coming on like gangbusters. Hegge has a fine opportunity to make it. PERF. QT.: 2.

Lanier's on-field hobbies are breaking people in two, which he does often, and inflicting pain, which he does always. Lynch is a Clark Kent type; game films show his value. Though 34, Bell is still lean 'n mean. Werner's bids have been futile. Palewicz is still learning the ropes. PERF. QT.: 2.

Surprise, surprise: An erstwhile All-Pro is on the bench. That's where Marsalis was last fall. Small but ever-hustling Allen pulled the coup and has no plans to step down. Orner Emmitt's game is bump and run, so the new rules will force adjustments. Reardon and kick-returner Marshall can play safety. PERF. QT.: 2.

Kearney doesn't take much nonsense from tight ends. Sensibaugh handles centerfield in competent fashion. Jones is coming out of the embryo stage. Depth is lacking here. PERF. QT.: 3.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS



Cid Edwards goes through a hole escorted by Pettis Norman.

The San Diego Chargers are the most uninhibited collection of free spirits in the National Football League. You can catch their act between practices during training camp when they descend upon the surfing beaches between Newport and Laguna to challenge the breakers. You can also catch it at various and assorted night spots in Southern California, wherever the zany and bizarre congregate.

But free spirits are tolerated in pro football only so long as they win. The Chargers won only twice last year and also were caught and penalized by the league in a large-scale drug scandal.

Their surfing days may be over and there may be heavy movement on the roster.

To restore order, owner Gene Klein hired Tommy Prothro as his head coach a few weeks after the '73 season ended. Prothro was fired by the Los Angeles Rams the year before, but his long coaching career is full of success and no one would be shocked if he made the most of his second chance in the pros.

Prothro admits that "I'm a guy who loves to figure percentages," and he'll get plenty of that in this year of change in the NFL.

One thing that may mystify him, however, is his quarterback position. He'll have to decide almost immediately whether Johnny Unitas has anything left at all. The NFL watchers think Johnny

U's career went over the hill three or four years ago in Baltimore.

If Prothro agrees with that assessment, he'll then have to decide whether Dan Fouts, who started often in the last half of the last season as a rookie, or Jesse Freitas is his best bet. Freitas is a rookie from San Diego State.

The Chargers were almost exclusively a running team last year. Gary Garrison, the superb wide receiver who used to catch a dozen touchdown passes in a season, caught just a few passes of any variety in the last campaign. But the rules changes could make Garrison a useful citizen again. Prothro then would be required to find ways of getting the ball to him. Jerry LeVias is another interesting pass receiver.

Prothro's staff also will be pressed to make something out of tight end Jim Thaxton, who showed briefly in his rookie year that he can be a great bother to enemy defenses. Prothro was hired to make the most of the talent already on the Charger roster, and Thaxton is a prime example of the development problems the coach faces.

When the Chargers turn to the run, more decisions will have to be made by Tommy. His No. 1 draftee, Bo Matthews of Colorado, is a fullback. Prothro will have to decide whether Bo or Cid Edwards, the club's most valuable player in '72, should be in the lineup. He may decide both of them should be there, de-

AFC
West

Prediction:
Fourth

spite the fact that they're both nominally fullbacks.

One of Prothro's first moves was to trade veteran guard Walt Sweeney to Washington for draft choices, but even without the one-time star the Chargers still have a representative offensive line. Tackle Russ Washington was San Diego's most valuable player last season. The other tackle, Terry Owens, doesn't embarrass the team and Doug Wilkerson is still considered one of the NFL's comers at guard. Penn State's Mark Markovich might be able to move in at center or guard.

The expectation is that there will be changes in the defensive line. Coy Bacon accounted for 29 sacks as an All-Pro end for Prothro in Los Angeles, but when Harland Svare traded for him Bacon was moved inside to tackle, where he was far less efficient. Prothro will put him outside again.

Middle linebacker Tim Rossovich may be moved to end with Deacon Jones, who was an adversary of Prothro's in Los Angeles, moving to a new address. Dave Costa has a lot of mileage but he still functions well at tackle.

The Chargers had two first-round draft choices. After they selected Matthews they went for a linebacker, Don Goode of Kansas, and they expect him to step right into the lineup. He's known as a hitter.

In another linebacking move, veteran Mike Stratton has been switched to the middle, a position he hasn't played during his pro career, which stretches back to 1962. Floyd Rice, the former Oiler, still interests the Charger brass.

Bob Howard occasionally looks like an all-star at cornerback. Maybe the new coaching staff will remove the qualifier. Len Dunlap, the ex-Colt, is his partner.

Joe Beauchamp looms fairly large in the deep secondary, now that Bryant Salter was swapped to Washington for draft picks. Chris Fletcher also is back there.

Dennis Partee concentrated primarily on punting last year with Ray Wersching taking over Dennis' old placekicking assignment.

1973 RECORD (2-11-1)

0 Washington	38	0 Kansas City	19
34 Buffalo	7	19 Denver	30
13 Cincinnati	20	17 New Orleans	14
21 Pittsburgh	38	3 Oakland	31
17 Oakland	27	14 New England	30
0 Atlanta	41	28 Denver	42
16 Cleveland	16	6 Kansas City	33
		Thaxton	

SCORING

Tds	PATs	FGs	Total
0	15	11	48
7	0	0	42
3	0	0	18
2	0	0	12
2	0	0	12
2	0	0	12

INTERCEPTIONS

Ints	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
5	25	0	25	5.0
3	46	0	23	15.3

PUNTING

Punts	Yds	Lgst	Avg
72	2958	62	41.1

RUSHING

Atts	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
133	609	1	50	4.6
114	467	0	68	4.1
78	289	7	24	3.7
55	170	1	38	3.1

PUNT RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
27	352	2†	84†	13.0†
6	56	0	28	9.3

RECEIVING

Recs	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
30	536	3	69	17.9
25	164	0	28	6.6
19	151	0	30	7.9
15	124	1	30	8.3

KICKOFF RETURNS

Rets	Yds	TDs	Lgst	Avg
36	947	0	70	26.3
20	423	0	50	21.2

SYMBOLS

*—Retired
 **—Traded
 †—Conference leader

PASSING

Fouts	Atts	Comps	Yds	Lgst	TDs	Ints	Pct
**Clark	90	40	532	54	0	9	44.4
Unitas	76	34	471	51	3	7	44.7

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS

QUARTERBACKS					
Fouts, Dan	6-3	193	23	2	Oregon
Freitas, Jesse	6-1	190	23	1	San Diego State
Unitas, Johnny	6-1	205	41	19	Louisville

RUNNING BACKS

Matthews, Bo	6-2	228	22	1	Colorado
Edwards, Cid	6-3	230	30	7	Tennessee State
Jones, Clint	6-0	205	29	8	Michigan State
Holmes, Robert	5-10	215	28	7	Southern
Thomas, Bob	5-10	202	26	4	Arizona State
Rudder, Bill	6-2	226	22	1	Tennessee

RECEIVERS

Garrison, Gary (W)	6-1	195	30	9	San Diego State
LeVias, Jerry (W)	5-9	177	28	6	SMU
Norman, Pettis (T)	6-3	222	34	13	Johnson C. Smith
Thaxton, Jim (T)	6-2	240	25	2	Tennessee State
Parris, Gary (T)	6-2	226	24	2	Florida State
*Holliday, Ron (W)	5-9	168	26	2	Pittsburgh
Davis, Harrison (W)	6-3	205	22	1	Virginia
(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End					

(W)—Wide Receiver (T)—Tight End

INTERIOR LINEMEN

Washington, Russ (T)	6-7	289	27	7	Missouri
Owens, Terry (T)	6-6	268	30	9	Jacksonville State
Wilkerson, Doug (G)	6-3	256	27	5	N.C. Central
Gordon, Ira (G-T)	6-3	278	27	5	Kansas State
Mauck, Carl (C)	6-4	243	27	6	Southern Illinois
Wenzel, Ralph (G)	6-2	250	31	8	San Diego State
Dennis, Al (G)	6-4	250	23	2	Grambling
Douglas, Jay (C)	6-6	254	23	2	Memphis State
Markovich, Mark (C-G)	6-5	252	22	1	Penn State

(T)—Tackle (G)—Guard (C)—Center

KICKERS

Wersching, Ray (Pk)	5-11	210	24	2	California
Partee, Dennis (P-Pk)	6-1	229	28	7	SMU
(Pk)—Placekicker	(P)—Punter				

(Pk)—Placekicker (P)—Punter

DEFENSE

FRONT LINEMEN

FRONT LINESMEN					
Bacon, Coy (E)	6-4	270	31	7	Jackson State
Rossovich, Tim (E)	6-4	240	28	7	Southern California
Costa, Dave (T)	6-1	250	32	12	Utah
Wirgowski, D (T-E)	6-5	257	27	5	Purdue
Lazetich, Pete (T-E)	6-3	238	24	3	Stanford
Jones, Deacon (E)	6-5	257	35	13	South Carolina St.
Teerlinck, John (T-E)	6-4	250	23	1	Western Illinois

(E)—End (T)—Tackle

LINEBACKERS

Goode, Don (O)	6-2	222	22	1	Kansas
Redman, Rick (O)	6-0	220	31	10	Washington
Stratton, Mike (M)	6-3	241	33	13	Tennessee
Rice, Floyd (O)	6-3	223	25	4	Alcorn A&M
Gersbach, Carl (M)	6-1	230	27	5	West Chester State
Rogers, Mel (O)	6-2	231	27	3	Florida A&M
(O)—Outside Linebacker			(M)—Middle Linebacker		

(O)—Outside Linebacker (M)—Middle Linebacker

CORNERBACKS

Howard, Bob	6-2	177	29	8	San Diego State
Dunlap, Leonard	6-2	198	25	4	North Texas State
McGee, Willie	5-11	178	24	2	Alcorn A&M
Oliver, Clancy	6-1	184	26	3	San Diego State

SAFETIES

Fletcher, Chris (S-W)	5-10	182	25	5	Temple
Beauchamp, Joe (W)	6-0	188	30	9	Iowa State
Smith, Ron (S)	6-0	203	31	10	Wisconsin
Berry, Reggie (W)	5-11	185	25	3	Long Beach State

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

(S)—Strong-side (W)—Weak-side or "Free" Safety

Performance Quotients

(Expletives deleted.) Can't anybody here play this game? Johnny U is washed up. He lingers pathetically. The jury is still out on Fouts. Miracles are unlikely from hometown hero Freitas. PERF. QT.: 4.

Matthews, the second collegian selected in the entire draft, will muscle right in and generate some oomph in this hot-and-cold situation. In tandem with Edwards he'll create an imposing big-back look. Why Jones hasn't become a star is still a mystery. Holmes is a short-yardage man. Thomas can cut it but doesn't see eye-to-eye with Coach Prothro. Rudder is very welcome. PERF. QT.: 3.

You can't blame Garrison and LeVias for being aggravated. It's frustrating to continually run test patterns and know there's nobody back there who can throw. If a passer is discovered these guys can disrupt defenses. Thaxton is large and speedy. He's likely to jet past aged Norman. Parris is finding himself and can challenge. Holliday is signed for the WFL in 1975, but may be available a year earlier than planned. Davis can help. PERF. QT.: 3.

Even with Walt Sweeney now a Redskin, this large-sized wall isn't in danger of buckling. Washington—huge, quick and proficient—is often absolutely overwhelming. Owens has weathered eight seasons of wear-and-tear with above-average grades. Wilkerson's raw talent is reaching the fine-tuning stage. Gordon is another big stud who can throw his weight around. Mauck, a comparative small fry, takes pride in his work. Wenzel knows what's happening. Dennis and Douglas are finding out. Markovich, drafted in the second round, could make noise. PERF. QT.: 2.

Partee now specializes in punting. Wersching's field goaling hasn't set the world on fire. PERF. QT.: 3.

Wholesale remodeling is in store here. Lionel Aldridge retired. Ron East and Greg Wojcik opted for the WFL. Deacon's greatness is a memory. Bacon, a former All-Pro, returns to his original end position. Rossovich, flaky but intense, moves from linebacker and may occupy the other flank. Costa's a rock. Lazetich, Wirgowski contend for the other tackle spot. Young Teerlinck could surprise; he's well thought of by the coaches. PERF. QT.: 4.

A shuffleboard game is scheduled here. Goode, the team's second draft pick in the first round, is set for one starting spot. With Rossovich leaving the middle, spunky veteran Stratton moves there for the first time in his career. Gersbach is ready if Mike doesn't hold up. Redman, an assistant coach, may be asked to fill one outside vacancy. Rice and Rogers will get their chances. PERF. QT.: 4.

Howard is a skillful operator with capabilities that can spell All-Pro. Dunlap isn't bad and can improve. McGee, an Olympian bubbling over with speed, is in the process of developing the rest of his game. Oliver was shelved all last year with an injury. PERF. QT.: 3.

Bryant Salter's exodus to Washington leaves a void at strong-side safety that can be filled by Fletcher, who's started before, or veteran kick-return whiz Smith, who has been a first-stringer, too. Beauchamp holds down the other side. Berry hangs on. PERF. QT.: 3.

CULTURE AND VIOLENCE

Cincinnati's great defensive tackle Mike Reid is as serious about playing the piano as he is about playing pro football—and he excels at both activities

Mo Moorman knew that Mike Reid was a trained and serious pianist. He also knew that Reid was a quick defensive tackle.

But that knowledge still didn't prepare the Kansas City guard for the ordeal he was undergoing. To Moorman, Reid looked quick enough to play the Minute Waltz in 45 seconds. To Lenny Dawson, the Kansas City quarterback, it seemed that Reid was playing the Grand Canyon Suite on Dawson's clavicle, using his head for a kettle drum and strumming his spinal cord like a viola.

It was the game that put Mike Reid into the Pro Bowl. It was the first time the NFL establishment looked upon him as something other than a freak, a guy who mixed culture with violence.

Moorman then was considered one of the league's better guards. Reid did everything but put him in a streaker's uniform. Five times he blew by to sack Dawson single-handed. A lot of NFL



Reid, 74, uses his incredible quickness to penetrate across the line into the enemy's backfield.

ROCK'N ROLL is here to stay



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WILBERT HARRISON
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THE ISLEY BROTHERS
RAY CHARLES
DUSTY SPRINGFIELD
LITTLE RICHARD
GENE PITNEY
THE FIVE SATINS
TOMMY ROE
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defensive tackles don't get five un-assisted sacks in a 14-game season.

That was in his second season in professional football. Now Reid is considered one of the finest defensive linemen in the game. If the Cincinnati Bengals make a further move toward the Super Bowl, their defense is likely to provide the transportation. The multi-talented fellow from the Keystone State is a keystone of that defense.

Paul Brown, the Bengals' major-domo, thinks so much of Reid's contributions that he even rushed to his player's defense when a concert he gave with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra was not greeted with unanimous raves by the critics.

"One fellow said he sounded like a football player playing the piano," said Brown. "Well, what kind of a defensive tackle would Liberace make?"

Reid does a better job of separating his two interests.

"Music gives my life order," he says. "Football presents an opportunity to evaluate oneself, and not too many people get a chance to do that in life."

Cinci's defense is designed to allow Mike a chance to penetrate, to make things happen. The same year the Bengals made him their No. 1 draft choice they tabbed Ron Carpenter of North Carolina State on the second round. Carpenter plays alongside Reid at tackle now and serves as the "stay-home" man, the fellow who protects against draw plays and other devices that an offense might use to play off against Reid's quickness. Until this season, Mike also has been helped by the knowledge that he had one of the finest middle linebackers in the game, Bill Bergey, behind him to protect the middle.

It was that combination that helped propel the Bengals to the 1973 Central Division championship in the American Conference and a match with the Miami Dolphins in the playoffs.

"The thing I use is quickness," admits Reid. "It's harder to deal with quickness than anything. That's my philosophy of football—quickness and agility.

"They are the most important assets. You can be the most experienced guy in the world but even if you know where

you want to go but can't get there, what good is the experience?"

Terry Bradshaw, against whose Steelers the Bengals compete yearly for the Central title, says that "Reid is the key to the Cincinnati defense. You've got to control Reid before you can think about handling the Bengals."


Reid sees little conflict in following two vocations, those of a defensive tackle and of a pianist-composer.

"They are both emotional things, football and music," he points out. "Football is more a thing of the moment. You have your memories after that moment is over, but that's about all. There is an involvement with music that you carry with yourself constantly."

Sometimes, says Reid, the two blend into something close to compatibility.

"For instance, I seem to do my best work at the piano after a game," he says. "I seem to be more mentally alert following an afternoon of football.

"Football is all emotion and music is nothing but an expression of emotion. I experience the 'butterflies' both before a football game and before a concert. I



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don't approach a concert the same way I would a game, however. I don't think the audience would pay to see me come out on the stage all fired up and maybe toss a piano into the orchestra seats.

"The concert stage is a much more individual thing for me than football. If I miss a tackle on the football field, there is a linebacker behind me to cover up and the tackle is made.

"If you have a memory lapse or get into the wrong key out there on the stage, there's no one to come and say, 'Here, let me play that for you.'"

Reid's teammates on the Bengals not only admire his off-the-field ability, they take pride in it.

"In college I lived by myself and had a piano and I think people thought I was a little strange," he says. "The professional players I deal with are older and more mature. I think my teammates get a kick out of the fact that 'Well, here's someone who can do something else and who has another kind of vocation.'"

Some of his fellow Bengals visit his Cincinnati apartment to hear him practice, and when the team is on the road

Doug Adams, 52, may replace the departed Bill Bergey, who was traded to Philadelphia.



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Reid breaks through a lineman's block and gets ready to grab Minnesota's Chuck Foreman before he can get going.

and a piano is available he'll often play for their entertainment.

But their fullest entertainment comes when he does his fortissimo thing against guards like Moorman. He was so quick as a college player at Penn State that many scouts forecast his professional future as a middle linebacker. At 6-foot-3 and 258 pounds he sort of outgrew that idea.

Not getting his chance to perform in the brighter spotlight at middle linebacker didn't faze Reid, however.

"There's a certain anonymity at defensive tackle," he observes. "If you play a bad game you have to face the coaching staff, but facing yourself is tougher. Admitting that you played lousy and then deciding to do something about it is easier than a concert, where you are one-on-one with the audience."

Reid is not all for being anonymous as a member of the Bengal front four. Reid, Carpenter and ends Royce Berry and Sherman White were involved in most of the team's 43 sacks of opposing quarterbacks. That was only two under Miami's conference-leading total of 45. The front four was a big reason why the Bengals ranked eighth in the entire NFL in 1973 against the run.

Their focal point came last year when they wrecked Minnesota, 27-0, in the Vikings' stretch drive to the title and the playoffs. The young and still improving Cincinnati team won their last six regular-season games.

"We don't have a nickname," says Reid. "We're just Ron and Sherm and Royce and Mike. It's not catchy but it's functional."



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ROOTING FOR THE DOLPHINS /from page 51



Miami's Bob Griese "called a perfect, beautiful game," in the Super Bowl, writes his Minnesota opponent.

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in a tough division, and even if we get out of it on top, the other teams—like Los Angeles, Dallas, Washington, Atlanta—will be tougher. I think right in our own division the Detroit Lions could be a surprise team to a lot of people. They had a terrible amount of injuries last season, but that [Coach Don] McCafferty knows how to build a winner.

We won't run away in our division. Heck, we really didn't last year, even though we won our first 10 games of the season. We didn't blow anybody out. Most of our games were close, and we needed a lot of field goals and breaks to keep winning.

So I think Detroit will be strong. Chicago is always strong against us. And how about those Green Bay Packers? Two years ago they were 10-4 with just about the same team they have now. Then things went bad for them the same way things went right for us. The Packers can be awfully tough, even without making any changes. All they have to do

is play at the level they reached in 1972, and now it will be easier because some of the guys were rookies then and have more experience now.

But don't get me wrong. I still think we're the best team in the whole conference. Remember, we had a lot of young kids, too, and they are all coming back with that experience. And believe me, getting the experience of a full season is one thing; learning to play under the pressure of the playoffs and then the Super Bowl is something altogether different. Our kids got the equivalent of two years of experience last season, and that will make them much, much stronger.

Our offense had some young people, like Chuck Foreman, for instance. He was a rookie running back, and he was just brilliant. I couldn't see anybody in the league beating him out for Rookie of the Year. I mean, he did that well with terrific pressure on him, not as if he were playing for a team that was out of the race by mid-season.

And now that we've released Carroll Dale, we'll be getting a younger starter at the other wide receiver's spot. Myself, I think it'll be [second-year man] Jim Lash. He played a lot for us last year, and made some valuable contributions during the playoffs, too.

But we have Rhett Dawson [another second-year player] and the high draft-choice kid, Johnny Holland. I think we're in great shape. We also have a lot of young offensive linemen.

On defense, too, we have kids, young guys first starting to play.

Jeff Siemon [entering his third season] was a second-year guy but he didn't play much the year before. Then all of a sudden he's our starting middle linebacker, and he went to the Pro Bowl, too. We have the Wrights, Nate and Jeff, in our secondary, and they'll be better with all the experience they picked up, too.

But I've always had a theory about winning and getting to the playoffs and the Super Bowl. It's not always the best team that gets there, but the luckiest. I don't mean lucky because they win a lot of games they should have lost, but lucky because they stay away from injuries. If we're fortunate enough to stay away from injuries, we'll get there.

The key man in our offense is Fran Tarkenton. I mean, he's just a dynamite quarterback. He has everything—experience, talent, leadership, intelligence. I don't think there's a defense going that he can't solve. And I've learned a lot from him. For instance, it's his feeling that you just can't throw consistently deep against a zone. You just can't beat a zone defense long. But you can maybe once a game. The whole idea, then, is to have patience. You can see a chance maybe six to 10 times a game, but you have to know when to go to it, when to exploit it. It's a gamble, but with a guy like Tarkenton you cut down your odds a lot. He's almost always right when he tells me 'This is it, Gilly, get deep.'

I don't mean to sound as though I think we have anything locked up. I've always believed that when you report to camp, every team in the league is a potential champion. Every team has the chance to win it all. Then, as the season starts, you begin weeding out the teams; rather, they start weeding themselves out by losing.

But even with just a game or two left, there could still be 10, 12 teams with a chance, and any one of them can win the Super Bowl.

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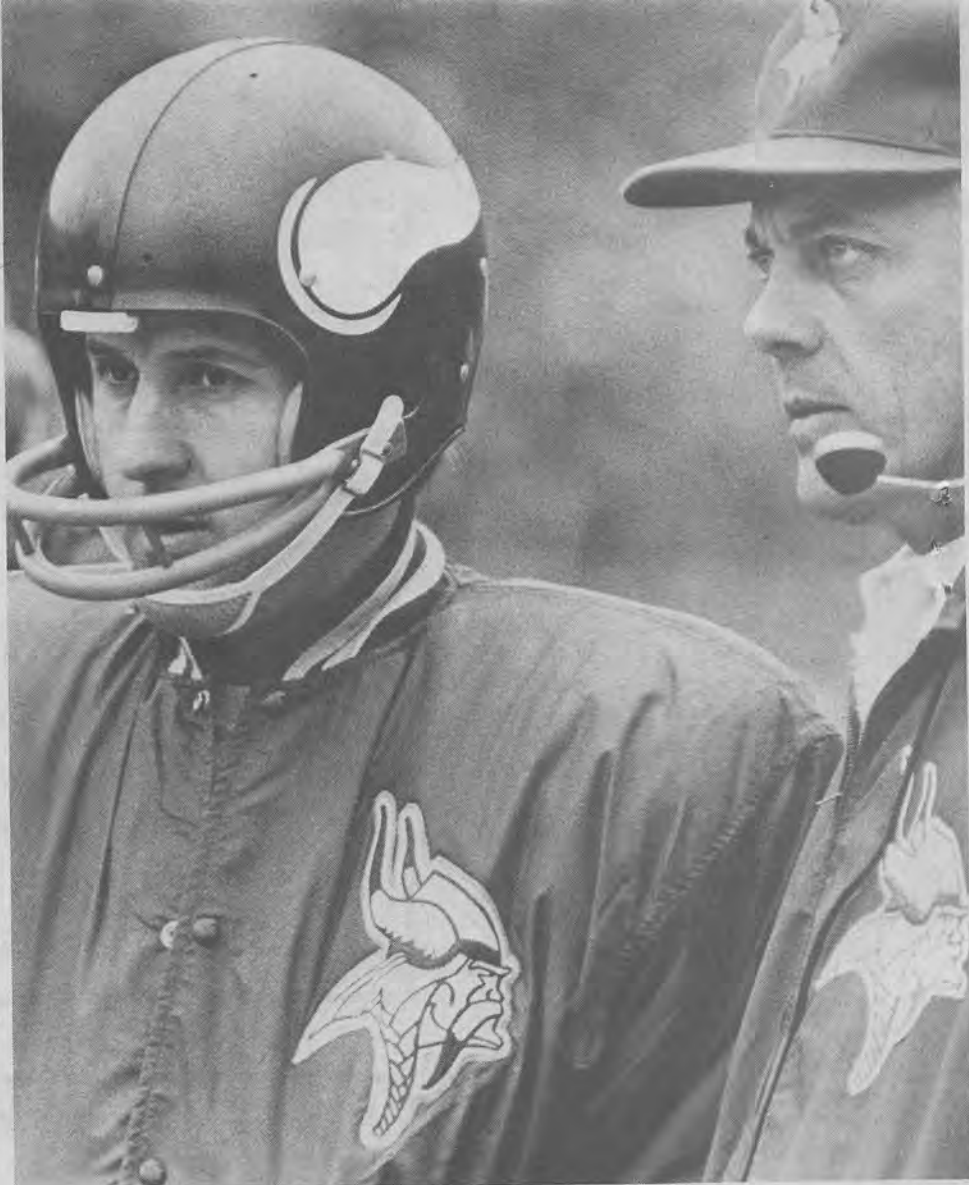


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Quarterback Fran Tarkenton, called "the key man in our offense" by Gilliam, stands on the sidelines with Coach Bud Grant.

and all of them have every right to expect to become Super Bowl champions. That's when it really gets rough, because all of them are good and you can't expect mistakes or 'gifts' from anybody.

Our edge is experience and Tarkenton. The Dolphins didn't want Fran to have the ball. Hell, they didn't even want to see him on the field. They were really afraid of what he might do to them, because he's so clever. So it was up to their defense to stop him when we did get the ball, and even more important, it was up to their offense to keep the ball, so that we'd be sitting on the bench.

That's one other thing I'd like to say. Everybody knows I have signed a contract to play for the World Football League in 1975. I signed with the Hawaii team and that's that.

I couldn't turn down the amount of money they offered me. I even went to Jim Finks [Minnesota's general manager

at that time] with their offer, and he told me the Vikings couldn't even try to match it.

I did what I did because I have to think of my family and our security. It was a great financial opportunity for me, and I'd have to be nuts to turn it down. This is a business. I don't mean anything, really, to any single team. Players can get cut or traded and then what? This was a chance to control my own future, and I had to take it.

I don't expect any resentment at all from the players on my team. I was back up in Minnesota in May for a little team golf tournament, and all the guys congratulated me and said they were glad for me. You just don't turn down that kind of money for a team.

But everybody wants to win, and I want this to be my best year in the NFL. And I want the Dolphins in the Super Bowl again. I really do.



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THE PRIDE FACTOR/*from page 18*



In 1973, Miami's statistics credit Den Herder with tackling the opposition passer 10 times, second on the team.

That means 100 per cent—and then some.

There's a professional bond of loyalty and respect on this team that permits none of us to do any less.

It has been pointed out that there will be a ticklish coaching judgment involved, namely the decision about how much you are going to play someone who won't be with you the following season.

Granted, it's an unusual situation, but I fully expect that it will be handled in the best way possible. When all is said and done, the overriding consideration still is winning.

So, as individual players, nothing will really be different for us this season—or even the next. It's still a matter of each man doing his job in order for the team to be successful.

It's in rising to the occasion to meet challenges that the real essence of our team comes to light. Our coach, Don Shula, calls it "the winning edge."

That edge develops from working hard

at all aspects of the game, practicing hard and, of course, playing hard.

If I had to put it in one word, it would be PREPARATION.

In terms of talent, there really isn't much more than five per cent difference from team to team around the league. Where the gap widens is in the area of preparation, both mental and physical preparation.

Although it's true that players ultimately must prepare themselves, I give all the credit in the world to our coaching staff. If you're trying to pinpoint a key to our success, look in their direction.

Coach Shula has chosen assistants who are great in assessing the material they have, finding strengths and weaknesses and formulating game plans.

[Editor's Note: Miami's assistant coaches are Monte Clark, Vince Costello, Tom Kean, Bill McPeak, Mike Scarry and Carl Taseff.]

They're great teachers. They're able to get across exactly what they want to ac-



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Den Herder adds to his stats on this play. He was credited with 61 tackles and 40 assists in the '73 season.

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comply, how to accomplish it and in what way each player contributes to make it work.

Our entire approach is playoff-oriented. It may be elementary, but the fact is that you can't win the Super Bowl without first getting into the playoffs. So that's our No. 1 priority.

I've been asked frequently about what I feel are the principal obstacles we'll have to overcome in order to win another Super Bowl.

Well, there are 16 obstacles before you reach the Super Bowl—14 regular season games and two playoff games. So if there's one thing you can't afford to be in this league, it's complacent.

After we won all 17 games two seasons ago, I guess there were people who thought we were invincible. But last year when we beat San Francisco by eight points on opening day and lost, 12-7, the following week in Oakland, you heard some talk that the Dolphins might be fat cats.

I assure you that wasn't—and isn't—the case.

Coach Shula and his staff treat us like adults. And as adults it's unrealistic to expect things to go your way all the time.

There's no panic. Neither are there posters, pep talks and other psyche-up methods preferred by some. Our approach is low-key. We are professionals. The emotion is inside. And we like it that way.

For example, after the loss in Oakland, Coach Shula talked to us. He was

cool and calm, his usual self. And he was frank.

He pointed out our position in relation to our hopes for the playoffs and said we had better start improving if we still want to reach that goal. But there were no unusual adjustments in practice that week. There was no need for them.

Our only other loss was in Baltimore in the next-to-last game of the regular season. There it was just a case of being flat. We had our division title clinched and perhaps we subconsciously didn't make adequate mental preparation during the week.

And that's when the edge has to develop—during the week. It's too late at halftime.

As for the role of luck in success, maybe it's best to go to the definition of luck being when preparation meets opportunity. It all goes back to preparation.

Like each of the last three seasons have, this one brings a new and greater challenge.

There was getting to the Super Bowl that first time ... then the 17-0 season ... winning our first Super Bowl ... then showing we had what it takes to repeat.

Now it's the challenge of doing what never has been done—winning a third Super Bowl.

The competition will be the toughest ever. That's for sure.

But it is a challenge the Miami Dolphins welcome—and one we will be prepared for.



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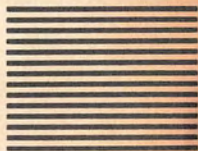
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During each Isokinetic exercise, you continually change the "weight" to the amount that your muscles need for fastest maximum development. (With a barbell you can't change the weight until after the exercise.)

"Sounds great," you say, "So how do I get started, and how much is it going to cost me?"

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beautiful simplicity, puts isokinetic muscle building within your reach for only a few dollars.

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The invention is POWEREX! It is a pure isokinetic exerciser designed to give you the ultimate benefits of muscle, strength, and explosive power in a hurry. And, as you know, with these benefits come the added benefits of confidence, virility, and the outgoing personality that enables you to get along well with others of both sexes.

POWEREX is going to do all this for you through the following isokinetic principles:

- 1) POWEREX builds your muscles through their full range of movement. It works every small muscle fiber to its utmost. Not the grunt-and-groan partial static results of an isometric gadget, but the total dynamic power of isokinetics!
- 2) POWEREX has the exclusive CONTROL GRIPS. You instantly and smoothly change the amount of "weight" working for you, to the maximum your muscles can handle . . . from zero to hundreds of pounds, quickly building your



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■ "I am a weight lifter of eight years. However, after using the Powerex just once, I sold all of my weights!" James Hinson, Jr., NC.

■ "Gained 20 lbs, increased arms 2½ inches, chest 3 inches, reduced waist 2 inches. Look and feel a lot better." Joseph Moreno, CA.

■ "In the short time I have been using

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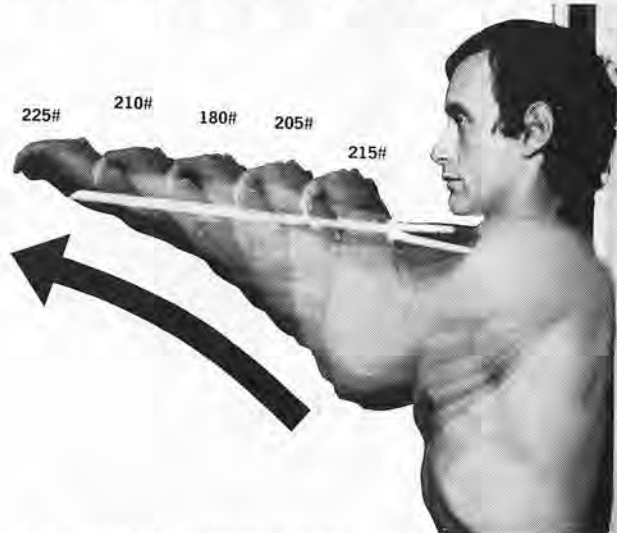
■ "You aren't just another rip-off company . . . you back what you say." T Roeklin, WI.

■ "Before, I was known as a singles hitter. This past season I was a home run hitter and I credit Powerex with this." Alabama.

■ "I reduced my waist 3", increased my arms 1½ inches, chest 2½ inches. Powerex has been the greatest!" D. Owens, MA.

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■ "After only two weeks, I am dead-lifting 450 lbs, bench pressing 240 lbs, and squatting with 400 lbs. I'm glad that I invested the \$13.95!" Richard Ozer, MT.



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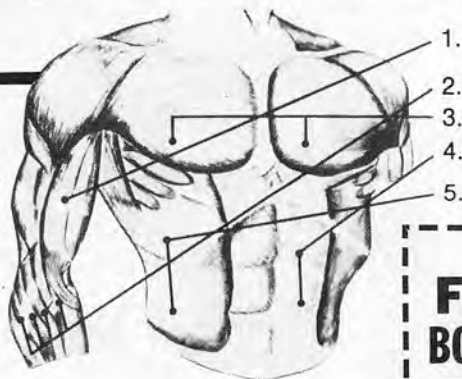
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